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THE  
GRECIAN COURTEZAN,  
OR THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
LYCORIS.

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[Price THREE SHILLINGS.]





THE  
GRECIAN COURTEZAN,  
OR THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
LYCORIS:

Containing a particular DESCRIPTION of the Manner  
of celebrating the ancient RITES of

VENUS, BACCHUS, CUPID, &c.

W I T H

An Account of the Amours of DANAE, LAMIA, LAIS,  
THAIS, and other DEVOTEES to the TEMPLES of  
PUBLIC PLEASURE.

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*In medio tutissimus ibis.*

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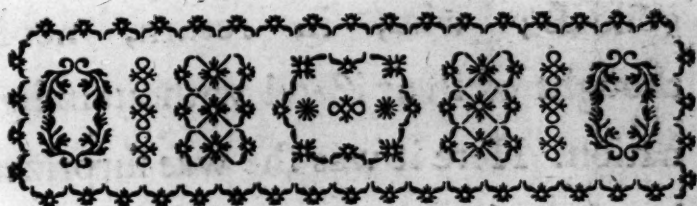
M DCC LXXIX.

THE  
BRITISH MUSEUM  
OF THE  
ADVANCEMENT  
OF  
THE  
ARTS  
AND  
MANUFACTURES  
OF THE  
EMPIRE  
OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND  
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED  
BY VIRTUE OF AN ACT  
IN THAT BEHALF PASSED  
IN THE SEVENTH YEAR  
OF HIS MAJESTY KING  
GEORGE THE THIRD  
CHAP. LXXV.  
1793.



1839

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# LYCORIS:

OR, THE

## GRECIAN COURTEZAN.



Was born at Lemnos, an island near Thrace; of which Bacchus and Diana were the tutelar deities. This was the only place, in all Greece, where a temple had not been erected in honour of Venus, my protectrix. The Lemnians

B

shewed

shewed the utmost disrespect to that goddess; who, in return, never thought of their island without indignation. Here it was she was surprized by her husband, while she was lavishing the warmest proofs of her affection on the God of War, which exasperated Vulcan to carry his revenge even so far, as to give the assembled gods the most glaring proofs of his dishonour.

Brought up under the wings of a father, whose philosophy was the gratification of the senses, I early learned to esteem nothing so much as my own will, and pleasure. This was the fundamental part of his system, and I  
felt

felt it, even before I was capable of distinguishing its delicacy. Nothing seemed so natural to me, as giving a loose to my inclinations, and satisfying them, at any expence. My father summed up all vices, in disobliging mankind, and all virtues, in obliging them. His morals, as you may perceive, demanded no trouble to acquire; and I dare say my father found a daughter in me worthy of himself.

Tyrteus, for so he was called, was a lover of arts and sciences; and had a desire of cultivating my mind. He made me sensible of the charms of eloquence, and poetry. He was a



good musician, and composed some amorous airs, which he played on the lyre, and accompanied with his voice. I inherited a part of his talents. Scarce was I twelve years old, before I attracted all the Lemnian youth, by the harmonious sound I drew from that instrument, which proved so dear to Linus its inventor, by raising a mean jealousy, even in the heart of the God of Harmony.

The taste for this divine science was held so much in estimation throughout all Greece, that none but those of the meanest extraction were expected to be ignorant of what was practised by heroes and sages; nay,

Chiron

Chiron began the education of the fierce Achillis, by softening his ferocity with the power of music.

From my infancy I had contracted a tender friendship for Phannis, who passed for the daughter of a private man of Lemnos. Nothing could equal the Joy of being with this dear neighbour. I was perpetually watching for her; but she had a mother-in-law, who had powerful reasons for not suffering her out of her sight; so that we were obliged to content ourselves with simple proofs of friendship. Secret interviews might have brought on eclairsissements, which might have proved prejudicial to this watch-

ful mother-in-law, therefore she never suffered Phannis out of her sight. Difficulties only raised our mutual desires ; but the obstacle was invincible. What a number of little secrets had we to impart to each other ? How many doubts to solve ? for my heart was at that time full of them. All those pleasures which prove so charming to young people of our age, were intirely unknown to us. Each had attained our fifteenth year, yet both were unable to tell our doubts, and desires ; nor even the uneasiness we reciprocally raised in the breasts of each other. A religious superstition, to which I was devoted a victim, at last terminated our anxiety.

The

The great goddess, from whom the island is named, expected the annual sacrifice of a limited number of young girls. Those whose age rendered them fit to be thus devoted for the safety of their country, were summoned by the sound of instruments. Phannis and myself were both of that unfortunate age, and were inhumanly dragged to the publick place, where the magistrates were assembled to make us cast lots. Phannis was proclaimed one of the first victims to the divinity; on which I turned pale, and and filled the air with a thousand dreadful lamentations. I was next obliged to trust myself to the sport of the fickle goddess. Alas! I no longer

desired to live, when I knew Phannis was condemned to die. I approached the fatal urn, and putting in my hand, gave the paper I drew from it to the high priest. It decided my fate. The unhappy Tyrteus, who attended me, fell in a swoon as soon as he knew the cruel destiny of his daughter; they parted us, and carried him away breathless. As for me, my eyes were tenderly fixed on Phannis; I was wholly taken up with her misfortunes, and the hopes of sharing them, made me almost forget my own.

Already the cruel ministers of the goddesses were preparing to adorn the victims;



victims ; already their heads and arms were ornamented with crowns, and garlands of flowers, and the sacred flames already burnt on the holy altar ; when suddenly a most dismal noise filled the very hearts of my murderers with horror ; the earth groaned, rent open its bowels, and presented on all sides gulphs of burning flames ; the judges, the crowd, the executioners, nay, the very victims ran away ; and whilst they avoided one abyſs, they fell headlong into another : thick clouds of ſulphur and ſmoke corrupted the air, and darkened the face of day. I remained there clasped in the arms of Phannis, and

implored the aid of that favourable goddess, to whom my father had dedicated me. Surely Venus protected me; or at least, if that unhopèd-for event was not the effect of her goodness, without doubt her power assisted our flight. The streaks of fire which glided along the air, seemed only to fall among our enemies. Phannis and myself fled by the help of their dull glimmerings. This miserable island is often subject to these volcanoes, bred in the entrails of the earth; but nothing ever equalled what happened that day; for it seemed as if they endeavoured to destroy the whole island.

At

At last the darkness was insensibly dissipated; the air became pure and serene; and we had already got a considerable distance from that spot, where death, under such frightful and varied forms, had stared us in the face. We saw a wood, which we entered with precipitation; the fear of being pursued got the better of our weariness; Phannis had more strength and courage than me, who sunk under the fatigue. We were benighted in the wood, and obliged to rest under a tree during the darkness.

We were bemoaning our misfortunes, when our ears were struck with admirable voices. I advanced a few steps; Phannis followed me,  
and

and in a small adjacent field, I perceived several nymphs dancing by moonlight. They were almost naked; and their long hair, adorned with flowers, flowed upon their shoulders. What charms! what activity! but their diversions appeared to be soon interrupted, by the arrival of some amorous Fawns, who surrounded them. The young Dryads vainly endeavoured to escape; so that at last overcome by the intreaties of these inflamed Sylvans, they admitted them into their party. The songs and dances were again renewed, and I thought their motions became more animated and lively than at first. A thousand different ingenious postures gave me to

understand the sentiments of their hearts. The nymphs no longer really fled, but only feigned to do so: The Fawns and Sylvens, who seemed to apprehend their meaning, let them get the start of them, that their pursuit might appear more eager. A tender look was the reward of these wanton races. At last each Fawn embraced his Dryad with transport, and one carried his favourite beauty in his arms a few steps from where we were; and then began to overpower his mistress with tender endearments. The many kisses that were mutually given, made me suspect their bliss: but what idea could I form of a felicity, entirely unknown

which agitated our hearts.



to me. Phannis appeared as much embarrassed as myself. She tenderly grasped my hand, and I returned her careffes in the same manner. I sighed, and she scarce breathed : our panting and fluttering hearts seemed to sympathize with those of the happy lovers. Our greedy curiosity made their bliss almost our own. At last some involuntary sighs from Phannis reached the ears of the young Dryad, who cast her eyes on our side, and perceiving the indiscreet witnesses of her transports, extricated herself from the arms of her victor, and fled. The Fawn surpris'd and amazed, followed her ; leaving us a prey to our disorder : in a word, to all the impulses which agitated our hearts.

We

We had scarce lost sight of them, when we went and seated ourselves on that very spot, which had but just before been the scene of their felicity. How happy they were ! cried Phannis; their bliss, had they continued here much longer, would have been the death of me. I know not whether you are in the same situation I am in, but I dearly pay for the pleasure I enjoyed in looking at them. What a dreadful situation mine is ! I experience a new kind of torment. I own I understood nothing of what Phannis said : but replied, you surprise me, my dear friend. I on the contrary experience a lively and delicious sensation. It is true,

Awake

I

I have desires ; but those very desires rather augment than disturb my bliss : never did I find myself in such a situation before ; certainly it is divine.

Phannis continued her complaints ; and I pitied her situation, as much as I was surpris'd at it. I could not imagine how the same sight could affect us both so differently. I embraced her, clasped her in my arms ; but her grief seemed to grow the stronger for it. Happily her lips met mine. Now was the time that nature began to appear : We mutually imparted a flame that devoured us. I expire, cried Phannis. Alas ! I was myself dying in extasies of delight.

I

Awaked

Awaked from the delightful dream in which our souls were immersed, we looked on each other with that fixed attention, which springs from an agreeable surprise. Our eyes were very significant : yet, notwithstanding their expressive tenderness, we should still have been ignorant of our fate, had not Phannis, (whom nature certainly inspired !) obeyed the impulse of a curiosity, which was to decide our happiness. Her trembling hand put aside the veil, which covered my bosom ; but what was her surprise to find such a difference between her and mine ? Phannis, whom the female attire imposed on him by his mother, had hitherto kept ignorant of the difference

difference of our sexes, with eagerness threw himself on those breasts, whose firmness, and beauty, had charmed him. His curiosity, which seemed to be taken up with the first valuable discovery, soon sought new causes of wonder. Till now I had not checked his rashness; but a secret modesty prompted me not to suffer him to push his indiscretions any farther. Stop; have done, cried I, what would you do? His desires grew stronger by resistance, and Phannis was triumphant. In this case, instinct is as sure as it is quick. We no longer enjoyed an imaginary pleasure: it was now the pleasure itself.

The



The Fawn, and Dryad, we had disturbed, willing to know who we were, had returned softly to the place, from whence Phannis's voice had drove them. The loud laughs they burst into as they retired, threw us in confusion. Was it just to undergo a punishment for an involuntary indiscretion? This new accident occasioned Phannis to take a little rest; Lycoris, said he, it is no longer I speak as a friend, but as a lover, own, that our fate is very extraordinary, though yesterday condemned to a most cruel death, we have just experienced the most refined pleasures. A cruel mother, who without doubt sought my death, by bringing me up as a  
victim

victim for the goddess, preserved me even by her very cruelty for the most exalted bliss. I looked upon you as a friend, and all on a sudden you became my mistress, a name a thousand times dearer to my soul, since it unites me to you by the tenderest bands,

I answered this declaration like a passionate mistress : what caresses did I not bestow on Phannis ! How great was his gratitude ! Oh heavenly author of our felicity ! your language, life, and transports could never equal it. Psyche was never half so happy as me.

Our pleasures were succeeded by a refreshing sleep. Aurora dispelled the  
shades

shades of night, and the great planet of the world had gilt the atmosphere, when the melodious harmony of the feathered creation interrupted our repose. I awaked a happy mistress, in the arms of my lover. As soon as he looked at me, his transports revived his soul again mixt with mine; all admiring nature might have envied our bliss; for the gods only were capable of equalling our joy.

Our own interest made us begin to grow a little more sparing of our mutual careffes. Our souls, if I may so express it, dissolved in faintness, seemed as if desirous to make their escape. Stop, dear Phannis; your  
 Lycoris

Lycoris is ready to die for want of strength ; stop, if you in the least value her life. Phannis unwillingly obeyed, although he was in as bad a situation as myself, tired and fatigued ; we had scarce strength to speak ; the language of the eyes was our only resource. How heavenly is that language, for two hearts united both by inclination and pleasure.

The necessity of supplying our other wants, soon made us sensible that we were only mere mortals. The forest we were in, afforded us no other food than wild fruits. Phannis gather'd some, which he presented me : what food does not become delicious, when  
 offered

offered by a lover ! I devoured them without thinking on the oddity of fortune, who, having just crowned us with joy equal to what the gods themselves possess, reduced us, by that frugal repast, to the sorrowful condition of the brute creation.

Having taken a few hours repose, nothing employed our thoughts more, than how to quit the place of our nativity. The sun had run half his career before we perceived the sea. We climbed up to the top of a craggy rock, which stood nigh the shore ; there we implored the gods to send us some deliverers. Phannis, however, mitigated my grief by his love;

he



he swore to me by the same gods we had just invoked, to be always constant. And I made the same oath of fidelity. Horrid Vows! how came they to prove so weak? The tenderness I at that time possessed for Phannis, made me intreat him not to discover his sex. I was afraid some rival might endeavour to share my pleasures. He consented to all I demanded. You will find this tender precaution was the very cause of our mutual infidelity.

Thetis had received new charms from her lover, who was dropping into her arms, when I perceived a ship which seemed to sail towards us.

What

What could equal our joy, when we heard some of the people on board answer the cries, with which we filled the air ? A prosperous gale brought them pretty near us, and the boat, being already launched, gave us hopes of escaping from the Lemnian tyranny. Just as we were going to embark, I cast my eyes back on the fatal island. The remembrance of my father, the wise Tyrteus, alone embittered my pleasure. The last time I saw him he was almost ready to die. This thought brought tears in my eyes ; but to the shame of a human heart, shall I say, that an attachment the mere effect of hazard, which pleasure caused, and which inconstancy

C

destroys;

destroys; that love, when it pleases, has the power of even stifling the voice of nature, and that my lover comforted me for the loss of my father.

We had scarce got among our deliverers, but we were asked the reason of our flight. Phannis told them the danger we had escaped the day before; they interested themselves in our fate, and were rejoyced to deprive a cruel goddess, who was unknown to them, of two victims. Each nation, and each island, had its different gods, and worship; so that what was looked upon as religious at Lemnos, appeared a crime to these pirates,

pirates, who had taken us on board their ship.

Two days passed without any discovery of our private history. Phanis was remarkably reserved; he scarce ever looked at me; and I observed the same behaviour with regard to him; so that we were really looked upon as two innocent creatures, who deserved the respect paid to our misfortunes.

As the profession of our deliverers from a cruel country was to scour the seas, we intreated to be landed on some neighbouring island. A sort of council was called on our request;

some were for refusing, and others for granting it; but the captain reminded them of the oath they had taken, at their departure, never to have a woman among them, to interrupt their reciprocal union. This argument prevailed, and the next day we were landed at Naxos, one of the principal islands of the Cyclades. Even the captain of these pirates carried his generosity so far, as to give us a few pieces of gold, for our subsistence, till the gods assisted us to some way of living. Wonderful contradictions in the heart of man! the captain of these pirates still talked of the gods. He who, by choice, embraced a profession, which flourished on the ruin of  
his



his fellow creatures, and who was daily exasperating those very gods; what could he do more, had he not known them; but we could in gratitude do nothing less, than return our thanks to these barbarians: perhaps we should have fared worse, had we fell in the hands of those who are called men.

When we had almost reached the gates of Naxos, I perceived an old man loaded with polycords, which he was going to sell in the city. I proposed to give him a piece of gold for one of them. Lovely child, said he to me, what you offer exceeds vastly the price of the instrument. The

gods I serve, and whose bounties favour my later years, forbid me to take advantage of your ignorance. Those very gods, replied I, cannot reproach you for my present, therefore pray accept it ; you may perhaps have occasion for it. He was really unhappy : his eyes grew moist with tears, and he told us he was father of a large family, for whom he could scarce provide. Phannis and myself mingled our tears with those shed by this old man, whom we obliged, in the name of Jupiter, to share our small treasure ; happy in having so soon an opportunity of enjoying the agreeable sensation one feels, in obliging a truly unhappy person.

We

We could not enter Naxos under more favourable omens. I hoped soon to raise my reputation, by the harp I had bought of the old man.

Phannis had the finest voice in the world, and promised to accompany me with his pipe. We had scarce got to one of the town gates, when a woman, perceiving we were strangers, offered us her house, as night was coming on. We accepted her offer, and followed her home. The moment her husband and children saw her come in with us, they joyfully embraced her, and loaded us with caresses. Oh great Jupiter! cried Polyenus (for that was the master's

name) can I doubt your protection, when you so often put it in my power to do good !

They soon set before us a repast, seasoned by neatness and the goodwill of the givers. They did not place their happiness in the delicacy of their food, the number of their servants, nor in the splendor of a magnificent apartment.

The father commanded in his house, with moderation, over a virtuous wife, and dutiful children. How came I not to learn by their wise examples ! Oh Venus ! already your all devouring flame had crept into my soul,  
and

and I was doomed to be devoured by it.

Polyenus informed us we were in an island peculiarly consecrated to Bacchus: here it was, (said he) that the unhappy Ariadne, basely abandoned by the deceitful Theseus, devoted herself to that god, who afterwards married her. To-morrow the Dyonian feasts are to be celebrated. If you have never had any idea of these sacred days, you will be surpris'd at the holy inebriation which possesses the priests of our god; it resembles the phrenzy which seized those at Thebes, who refused to acknowledge him for the son of Jupiter and Semele;



this may in a manner justify their excesses to you. We are not entirely unacquainted, replied Phannis, with the feasts of Bacchus; the island of Lemnos, which gave us birth, celebrates them twice a year; and I wish to heaven, they never celebrated any more detestable.

Then he told the astonished family how we had been condemned to die, for the sake of fulfilling an inhuman superstition, and should never have escaped, had not some divinity protected us. The time of rest being come, they shewed us the room where we were to pass the night. What could equal the transports of  
Phannis,

Phannis, when he saw himself alone with his dear Lycoris ! He made up for the cruel restraint he was obliged to undergo when with the pirates. True love has all its gifts. Phannis charmed me with his discourses, and his caresses. Pleasures can only be judged on by the degree of sensibility with which nature has favoured us. Sleep succeeded our voluptuousness, and in some degree diminished their sweets. A frightful dream struck my soul with horror. I cannot yet decide, whether it arose from the inquietude, or the disposition of my senses. It should have represented Phannis increasing his desires, by enjoyment ; but, on the contrary, it re-  
presented

presented to me all the horrors of a separation ; such as Phannis absent, Phannis faithless, were the sorrowful fruits of my imagination ; shall I say that the gods, by a secret impulse, forwarned me of the misfortunes that threatened me.

I awaked calling aloud on Phannis. He heard my cries, and hastily flinging himself in my arms, said, what is the matter, dear Lycoris ? you sigh ; Oh heavens ! no longer kill me by your silence ; tell me the cause of your uneasiness. I answered him, the fear of losing you. Alas ! I have just dreamt you abandoned me at Naxos, and

and that, mad at your infidelity, I demanded you back both of the gods and men; but they were deaf to my cries. Phannis was far from me. This was what disturbed my rest, and this is what at present disorders me. What! replied Phannis with vivacity, has a dream so much weight with you? my tenderness, my vows my tears, nay, even yours, are they not sufficient to encourage you to disregard airy visions? You must have very little love for me, who can thus mistrust me. My dear, dear Lycoris, every thing ought to serve as pledges of my fidelity. I call to witness those very gods, who seemed only to have fa-  
ved



ved us, to make us love each other. Do you think those very gods will suffer themselves to be disappointed, after having joined us, notwithstanding the many difficulties they were obliged to surmount? but above all, think on your bliss, and mine, that has joined us by an indissoluble band.

I at last yielded to his conjectures, which I took for reason: besides, Phannis had recourse to an irresistible kind of eloquence; my fears and doubts vanished at the approach of pleasure, just the same as a favourable wind, which instantaneously dissipates the clouds, and restores a calm in  
the



the mind of the affrighted mariner.

Again the first rays of the sun began to break through the clouds, and re-appear on earth, when a general stir in the house convinced us it was time to leave our bed. Scarce were we dressed, when the wise Polyenus entered our apartment, together with all his family. What careffes, what professions of friendship did they not bestow on us! We then thought proper to leave our hospitable friends; with the strongest assurances of gratitude for the favours we had received from them.

The

The whole city of Naxos now resounded with the different names of Bacchus. Nothing was heard on all sides, but the sounds of Phrygian flutes, and other musical instruments; the populace began to sing hymns, in praise of Dionysius. Delicious wines, carried in precious urns, were presented to every one. Joy was painted in every countenance, and reigned in every heart. I was also desirous of signalizing my zeal, by playing on the polycord which I had bought at the gates of the city. I had scarce drawn a few notes from the instrument, ere I was surrounded by a concourse of auditors, who applauded my

my skill, by a thousand signs of uncommon satisfaction : their applause was soon redoubled by the melodious voice of Phannis, and our admirers became innumerable. Some persons of the greatest eminence took us out of the increasing throng, and conducted us to a stately palace ; where, for the first time, we perceived the essential power of riches, in every thing superb, commodious, and pompous. We passed through several magnificent apartments, where many slaves were in waiting, whose personage were graceful, and whose attire was rich. At last we came to that part of the temple

temple where the idol was placed, to whom we were presented.

The fervility of those who introduced us here, apprised us that this was the governor of the island, who was negligently reclined on purple cushions, embroidered with gold. He cast on us one of those indifferent looks, which the great know how to make use of so nobly. Young strangers, said he, let us see what ye can do; perhaps I may settle you at Naxos, for I am the protector of sciences. Music is highest in my esteem, and I take a peculiar pleasure in it. I am a virtuoso, and your endeavours may please.

please. This order, given with an affected tone of voice, surpris'd me. I was so much intimidated, that I could hardly venture to cast my eyes up to this mighty connoisseur: however, I assumed spirits a little, and played some tunes, capable of touching any sensible soul. I endeavour'd to take notice what effect it had on the grave governor; and found he was not in the least moved; nor could Phannis, with all the charms of his voice, gain any other approbation than a few insignificant nods, or prove sufficiently capable of clearing that dull state of insensibility, in which all his sensitive faculties seem'd to be immerse'd.

How .



How many automaton are made up by vanity and pride ! what arts, what sciences, are sufficiently noble to command the passions of the great ! Could I therefore justly expect, that this man, who was idolized by flattery, should be actuated by the same springs which move others ?

The repeated acclamations of the inhabitants proclaimed the celebration of the greatest mysteries. Every one hastened to be present at them, except the governor, who remained alone tranquil. Doubtless, said I to myself, the car of Bacchus ought not to be followed by such slaves as this man appears to be. It is sufficient to enjoy  
the

the blessings the gods bestow on us, without being obliged to honour them for their bounty. How often in my life have I been obliged to make this reflection ? Oh ! immortal powers, are ye only the gods of those, whom ye scarce condescend to honour with your smiles !

Phannis and myself roved about the town, where the frantic Mænades ran up and down, loudly calling on the god with whom they were possessed. Here the inhabitants were crowned with vine leaves, and branches of ivy ; some of whom represented the good old man Sylenus, others, Fawns  
and

and Sylvans ; they furiously shook their tyrfis, and made the air resound with their horns and sistrums. There unclean animals, crowned with flowers, tamely presented their necks to the murdering steel of the sacrificer : here again men and women were seen dancing, overpowered with wine that had been given them in profusion, and occasioned such attitudes as were inconsistent with modesty. Night seemed only to increase the religious extravagance of this disorderly people. The Bacchanalians became more furious, and abandoned themselves to the greatest excesses. Several women endeavoured to imitate the priestesses, by cloathing their bodies with the spotted skins of stags,

stags, and covering their heads with live serpents. The divine Bacchus signified his approbation of their zeal by prodigies. The fountains, which played in the center of the town, were suddenly changed to rivulets of wine; their tyrses sprouted out new branches in the hands of those who shook them, and dropped honey in abundance: then nothing was to be heard but the incessant repetition of *ὦ Βακχε, ὦ Βακχε.*

Soon after, the torches and flambeaus, which illuminated the town, were extinguished, and the goddess of darkness spread her thick veil over this riotous multitude, who then abandoned

doned themselves to the most inordinate  
 acts. The tyrres and instruments  
 were all thrown aside. Fervent sighs,  
 the tender and faithful interpreters  
 of the most exquisite pleasures succeed-  
 ed the sacred hymns. No distinction  
 was kept between husbands and wives ;  
 all was unbounded freedom. Vanity  
 envy, and distrust, the principal dis-  
 turbars of mankind, were banished  
 every breast, and chance or proximity  
 decided every one's choice. Phannis,  
 apprehensive that violence might  
 seduce my affection, soon drew me  
 from so charming a sight, and preci-  
 pitately reconducted me back to the  
 governor's palace. Orders were issued  
 that



that we should be decently accommodated, and the slaves of this noble judge of arts hastened to serve us up an elegant supper; after which we were shewn to a magnificent apartment, where we locked ourselves in till morning. I omit mentioning what passed in the night with Phannis; for though it might have been expected, that the wantonness of the inhabitants of Naxos would have fired his imagination, he was, however, obliged to confess, that the pleasures of love are subject to surprising alterations. I cannot recollect, whether, in the surprize in which I was thrown by his inability or indolence, I did not

D wish

wish to have participated some of those enjoyments I had seen; sleep soon seized on my debilitated lover: I was piqued, yet my love for him was not diminished, however my desires were prevalent. It was then I found out a way of easing my torment; the divinity of Gnidus certainly inspired me with the means of enjoying thy delights, without the help of Phannis.

Our first care was immediately to return thanks to our august patron, whose court was already very brilliant; he negligently imbibed the incense of flattery, which was offered to him;

our

our appearance gave a new turn to the conversation. The principal wit of the ring took upon him to banter us on the danger we had been exposed to the day before ; he could not do this without being in some degree disrespectful to the god, in whose honour the feasts had been celebrated : but his irreligious digressions were overlooked, in favour of the wit with which his speeches abounded.

This troublesome scene happily ended by the fatigue of its chief actor. Wit has its limits, and when once we have passed the fixed point, we must infallibly err. Our jester had

reached that point; his eloquence then appeared nothing more than froth, his vivacity, heedlessness; and his gaiety extravagance. This is the common fate of talkative people, whose conversation may amuse at first, but will always displease at last. We were therefore obliged to have recourse to our little science, to clear up that cloud of weariness, which began to creep upon this illustrious assembly; and I may say without vanity, that our endeavours on this occasion had their desired effect.

The feasts of Bacchus never finished  
without the exhibition of some dra-  
matic

matic performance; and we were informed, that this was the day appointed for the distribution of the different prizes to those authors, whose works were crowned by the suffrages of the people. Phannis hastened with me to be spectators of these literary contentions, which had procured Greece those master-pieces of genius, that must be admired by the most distant ages. Sophocles and Euripides lived only in their works, and their successors rendered their memory still more dear, by the small number of those whom true taste had not abandoned.



The pieces that gained the prizes were full of smart witticisms ; but unnatural and injudiciously placed : sophistry assumed the seat of reason, and wit that of sense. The taste of the inhabitants was so far depraved, that they extolled these dramatic monsters, and set them in competition with the most illustrious pieces ; but how great was the difference ! Nevertheless the honours paid, and prizes conferred, were the same. How happy were these people to be born in such an ignorant age, when the most trifling authors were honoured with the same respect that had been justly paid to their glorious predecessors ?

cessors ! Taste for learning decreases, and decays ; but it is never intirely lost. Heaven in all times blesses mankind with writers worthy of some praise, and with men of generous sentiments, whose patronage is extended to the very reputation of study. A digression of this kind will seem less surprising from me, if it is remembered, that Tyrteus had spared no pains for my education, and had infused in my soul a part of that taste, which his own so abundantly possessed.

When the plays were finished, every one returned home, more or less satisfied according to their under-

standings. As for my part, I pitied them for entertaining so good an opinion of these authors. Each particular person appeared to me an imaginary rich man, who was counting riches he possessed only in idea. As for Phannis, he approved every thing he had heard, and murmured at my criticisms. What signifies it, said he, to quarrel with people, whose whole study is to give us pleasure? I know nothing of your Euripides, whom you so much extol; but I know that these honest people, who composed the pieces we have just seen, deservedly possess the prizes, that were bestowed on them. Believe me, the public is no fool;

fool; it is contented, it must surely have its reasons for being so, and that is sufficient for me. The serious air with which he told me all these trifles, made me burst into a fit of laughter. Believe me, Phannis, said I, you know how to love; let us be contented with that good qualification, and not, for indifferent matters, interrupt that good intelligence which forms our happiness. We were expected by a numerous assembly at the governor's palace; as soon as they saw us, we received a thousand marks of their friendship; none could suspect that Phannis was of a sex contrary to mine, he looked so well in women's cloaths.



Under this disguise a thousand fine compliments and gallant offers were paid him, which he rejected with the most becoming dignity, and secretly laughed at his disguise; alas! it was soon to cause terrible alarms. They supped, and music and dancing succeeded the magnificent repast at which we were present. The very governor became more tender and human than he was accustomed to be, during the rest of the day, and demeaned himself even so far as to enter into a conversation with me, nay more, to make love to me. I saw his pride diminish, when he made me a declaration of his passion; he not only put me on a level



level with himself, but even made me the arbitrator of his fate. What a triumph for a woman ! How is it then possible for our sex, when possessed of such an advantage, to guard itself against a vanity, which is authorized by the submission of those very people, who throw it in our way ? I played the part of an innocent creature extraordinarily well : every thing he said, seemed to surprise me ; I was even so happy as to blush, notwithstanding my dissimulation. I don't know whether artful women have not a power of commanding those modest looks, which so easily ensnare men ; my new admirer could not resist them. His protestations  
grew

grew warmer and warmer, and very little more was wanting to see him at my feet.

One of our guests at first acted the same part to Phannis, as the grave governor did to me; but certainly his desires were stronger. Phannis, who had a mind to divert himself with his foolish passion, suffered himself to be led into another apartment of the palace. I grew uneasy at not seeing him return; I dissembled for some time, but Phannis did not appear, and my heart beat an alarm. My uneasiness was taken notice of by the governor. What is the matter, Lycoris? said he, you seem excessively  
moved

moved. I no longer see my dear friend, replied I. Long since she disappeared, I fear.... Take courage, my dear creature, said he, you shall soon see her again, and he immediately gave orders for me to be relieved of my anxiety. All the palace was searched, but in vain; Phannis was lost to me. I had scarce learnt this news, ere I fell into a swoon. I was not even sensible of the endeavours that were taken to free me from this state of abjection, and day began to break, when opening my eyes, I found myself, without knowing how, in the very apartment I formerly inhabited with Phannis. I was surrounded with slaves, who were eager to serve me. Phannis

was

was the only name I pronounced ; a torrent of tears overflowed my eyes ; all the news they brought me only redoubled my grief. The governor had caused fruitless enquiries to be made ; nothing more could be found out, except that two ships had failed in the middle of the night. I no longer doubted, but some cruel ravisher had ran away with my lover. Oppressed with grief, and melting in tears, I recalled the cruel dream I had two days before. It is over, cried I, no more shall I see you, the cruel gods were resolved to separate us.

Vain were the endeavours of those, who were ordered to prevent my flight  
from



from the palace, where they wanted to detain me against my will. I flew to the sea-shore; my eyes over-ran the vast extent, as far as they could reach; but the winds, which proved favourable to the ravisher of Phannis, had already carried the vessel a great way off. A thousand times I was going to plunge myself into the sea; and a thousand times the hopes of seeing Phannis again kept me back, when on the brink of the precipice. I was sensible of his innocence, and was sure it was only violence could have forced him from me. Oh Neptune ! cried I, (embracing the shore) Oh mighty god of this vast empire ! who gave birth to the charming Pa-  
phian



phian queen, have pity on a lover divided from the adored object : reunite, if possible, two hearts, formed for one another ; but, above all, hasten my departure from this fatal island, and thou, O Venus, join with me in my prayer. Can any god refuse what all that is lovely and beautiful demands ! I was uttering these last words, when a monstrous dolphin came and sported just at my feet. I knew not what to judge of his frequently presenting me his back, which he raised a good way upon the water. At last, this sea monster, dashing the surrounding waves with his sides and tail, soon overflowed the beach where I stood ; I thought my life was

at

at an end, finding those waves drag me with impetuosity to that immensity which was allotted them. I cried out, adieu, Phannis! I die adoring you; however, the sea monster, whose motions had caused the inundation, which I was afraid would sink me, slipped under me. I laid fast hold on him; he kept me up; and turning from the island I hated, quickly made me lose sight of it. I doubted not but I was protected by the god I had invoked. It is him, it is Neptune, said I to myself, who intends to accomplish my desires; certainly I am going to be carried near the ship my lover is in. The celerity with which the charitable dolphin cut the waters,

made

made me expect to discover what my eyes scarched for in vain. Neptune had only heard half my prayer. I was far from Naxos, but farther still from Phannis. Whilst I was agitated by a thousand reflections I made on my adventure, and the hopes of soon embracing Phannis, I perceived a vessel, which the winds happily conducted our way. The mariners came nigh enough to see me, and I observed the boat launched out to come to my assistance; for they imagined I was only kept up by the wreck of some ship, which had been cast away. They approach, spread forth their arms, and immediately the dolphin disappeared. I entered the ship with that precipitation

tion with which I was inspired by the confidence of finding my young lover; every one hastened to question me about the accident which had exposed me to the horrors of death. I made no reply, and my eyes every where sought what they looked for in vain. I ran over all the ship; I knew nobody; I could neither find Phannis, nor his cruel ravisher. At last, frustrated of hope, I began to weep anew. I am surrounded, examined, but nothing could be made of my behaviour. As yet, I had not returned thanks to those humane persons who had taken me up. My grief insensible increased; my voice failed me; my eyes grew dimmer and dimmer;



mer; my strength entirely left me; and I fell into a faintness, which very much resembled death. The assistance that was given me, however, soon brought me to myself, and still my half-opening eyes searched for Phannis. The captain of the ship, touched with my situation, desired me to inform him of the subject of my grief. I complied with his request, and with a flood of tears, gave him a relation of my unhappy adventure at Naxos. He pitied me, and persuaded me not to despair of one time being restored to the object of my desires. Let us be ever so unhappy, still we greedily lay hold on the most delusive



delusive phantom which offers. Full of a blind belief, we imagine that everything ought to second our wishes, and in the midst of the most dreadful tempest, we still have a glimpse of the harbour. I myself experienced this; soothed by the captains, discourses, I looked upon my bliss only to be put off for a while.

The ship steered for Corinth, where the captain's affairs required his presence for some months; and we happily arrived safe in port, though the harbour of that illustrious city has frequently proved fatal to travellers.

On

On my arrival at this great city, situated between the arms of two seas, what was my surprize, when I found that the captain, who till now had appeared so generous, declared me to be his slave, and that he intended to dispose of me as he thought proper. I followed him trembling, and it was not long before I was convinced of the baseness of his soul. At Corinth there was a temple dedicated to Venus, in which the magistrates took care to maintain above a thousand young girls, who, for a stipulated sum, which was to be appropriated to the treasures of that goddess, conferred their favours indifferently on citizens and aliens. I dont, imagine that these  
men,

men, appointed for the maintenance of this singular sort of worship, thought they much honoured the goddess by permitting this public prostitution, and still less that they should induce her to bestow her protection on their country by these means. This temple had been erected, and this custom established, in the darker ages of superstition ; for they believed formerly, that the prayers of the courtezans had greatly contributed to the safety of Greece, when it was invaded by Xerxes. This was sufficient to make the people think on such a proof of their gratitude as I have just now mentioned ; it was still kept up  
at

at my arrival; but the spirit of religion, which had given it birth, gave way to political reasons, so that this custom was now looked upon as very important for the benefit of the town. Indeed the conveniency of finding the most amiable girls at command, for a limited sum, attracted a vast concourse of strangers to Corinth, where they left their riches. By this means, Corinth became one of the most powerful cities in the universe. Thus a crafty policy perpetuates customs, which are feigned holy, and which it would undoubtedly destroy, was it not to find out the means of making them both useful and necessary.

The



The magistrates frequently bought young strangers to make up the number of the thousand priestesses devoted to Venus. It was for this illustrious employ that the captain of the ship, without my knowledge, had destined me. In one day I was sold, and delivered to those who were to dispose of me. I was conducted to the residence of my destined companions, who, in a few words, made me understand the gravity of my office, and advised me to prepare myself even that very night for the exercise of it. The vexation with which I was suddenly oppressed is not to be described or conceived: we were all

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carefully



carefully guarded in the midst of the temple; so that it was impossible to escape. A thousand reflections at once overwhelmed my mind. I found myself obliged to violate my fidelity, which very idea terrified me. How dear the first step to perjury proves to a sincere heart! I still esteemed those vows made to the persons we love, as sacred bands which death alone had the power of breaking. Such were the reflections I was making, when a voluptuous Sicilian came and threw himself in my arms. Is it you, my dear girl, said he, who is appointed for me? come then, and satisfy the desires of one of the most amorous  
men

men in the world. He then embraced me, and pressing me in his arms, carried me to a bed of flowers, which was pretty nigh us. I endeavoured to resist his ardour ; he at first seemed surpris'd ; he stopped a moment ; then looking at me with attention, exclaimed, How lovely she is ! still pursuing his rash attempts. Finding myself unable to oppose this vigorous Sicilian, I had recourse to cries. Some of the seniors of this famous academy, into which I was initiated, came to us ; but far from rescuing me, they looked upon my resistance as a crime, and did not blush to lend this violent stranger their assistance.

One victory could not satisfy this Sicilian, who was one of those famous conquerors, to whom the first attack gave new strength; and still assisted by my elderly associates, he renewed the combat five times, and came off victor at last.

To what trials was not my love exposed during this first night! The Sicilian was succeeded by a second lover, who was followed by a third. It is true, the two last were Tyrians by birth, who were more effeminate, and shewed less courage than their predecessor; but they were equally as dangerous with regard to the fidelity



I had vowed to Phannis. My senses were delighted, against my will, by a thousand ingenious delicacies, the fruit of the most refined voluptuousness, and of which these Tyrians were masters. I own, I betrayed Phannis more than once; but the more I reflect on my involuntary weakness, the more I am in doubt, whether I ought in reality to reproach myself with it. At last, confirmed by my sensuality, my heart made remonstrances in vain. Pleasure triumphed over every thing, and nothing was left me but the chimerical resource of imagining I only yielded to Phannis. This was the life I led almost for a year in the tem-

ple of my protectrix, always regretting the loss of my lover ; I was alternately faithless and constant : in a word, Phannis only possessed the more noble part of me. I own, that a thousand times I wished to be able to forget him on account of the uncertainty I was in of ever seeing him again ; yet sometimes ashamed of having bestowed (though against my will) that happiness on a thousand, which only belonged to him, his image was always present to my mind, and was a disgust which greatly diminished the real blessings of my situation. Perhaps, said I to myself, he has forgot me, and even should I still prove dear to his  
soul,



soul, am I at present worthy of him ?  
 Oh Venus ! whose priestess I at present am, either ease my tortured mind, and restore Lycoris to her lover ; or make her tear from her heart the fatal remembrance which imbitters her joys.

One of my companions, to whom I disclosed my hidden sorrow, after having tried all possible ways to make me forget him, advised me to have recourse to the sovereign remedy. You have a liberty, said she, to leave the temple of Venus ; we are only obliged to remain a year ; and, if you see some of our companions here of

an advanced age, be persuaded the pleasures they enjoyed in their younger days made them remain, and they know, that, let them be ever so old, they never shall want any thing.

Address yourself to our reverend mother; it is she who is to open you the doors; instead of the white robes you now wear, she will give you what cloaths you like best; and a sum of money is also appointed for your use.

Repair to the promontory of Leucadia, there your unhappy love will have an end. Immortal Sapho found there that peace of mind, which she so long sought after she forgot Phaon. Even Venus, that holy goddess to whom we

daily

daily sacrifice, was conducted by Apollo to this promontory, that she might expel from her memory the loss of Adonis. Go, my dear, fly to that auspicious place, and afterwards put yourself in a capacity of enjoying the sweets of pleasure.

I thanked this tender friend for her good advice, and I soon resolved to undertake this voyage. All she had told me was strictly true; but she omitted one very essential circumstance, which might have prevented my arrival at that famous island. Leucadia, which was formerly a peninsula, was made an island by the



labour of the Corinthians, who had sent colonies on that coast. On the top of the promontory of this island, was a temple dedicated to Apollo, for extinguishing the flames caused by an inauspicious love; those who came here on that account, were obliged to throw themselves into the sea from the top of this promontory, from whence the fall was terrible. All possible precautions were taken for the preservation of the adventurers, by covering them, who were inclined to take the leap, with feathers, and by fastening many birds to them, to balance, in some degree, the rapidity of the fall, as also by waiting for them

at



at the bottom of the precipice on boats ranged in a circle ; but still it frequently happened they lost their lives, or disfigured themselves in a terrible manner. Although this place was called the **LOVER'S LEAP**, it was made use of on many other occasions. It was a remedy for all violent passions ; nay, it sometimes even served as a diversion ; for some people threw themselves down, with no other view than gaining a sum of money, which they had wagered on the leap. At my arrival, I saw one of these mad people, who came off pretty well. This contributed to hearten me against the dangers of

so

so violent a remedy ; and I was determined to make the trial next day.

The appointed hour struck ; already the feathers and the birds, with which I was to be covered, were preparing. Still wavering, and full of fear, I entered the temple of Apollo, to implore his divine assistance in the danger to which I was going to expose myself. But what was my surprise, O gods ! the high priest was at the altar, consulting the beating entrails of the slaughtered victim. Accidentally I cast my eyes on one of those who accompanied the sacrificer (even after thirty years this circumstance moves me !)

me ! ) he who held in his hand the hatchet smoking with the blood of the heifer, was my lover ; was Phannis himself ! I trembled and shuddered at the sight. However, a respect for the holy mysteries made me stifle the emotions with which I was agitated. I retired out of the temple, and declared I had altered my mind. The assembled populace, less for my sake than their own curiosity, murmured at my fear, and dispersed. As for me, I returned to the temple, and made a vow not to quit it without Phannis. The sacrifice was over, and I found myself alone, nigh the altar which I had approached, when Phannis, whose duty



duty obliged him to shut the door of  
 the temple, came up, and desired me  
 to depart. Go on, Barbarian ! cried  
 I, after having forgot Lycoris, nothing  
 now remains but to drive her from  
 those places, where her love for you  
 made her remain. At these words,  
 he looked upon me, and retired a few  
 steps affrighted. Heavens ! what  
 have I done ! Lycoris in these places !  
 Lycoris still in love with me ! and  
 I have just bound myself with dreadful  
 vows. And thou, O Father of Light !  
 thou, O Phœbus ! to whose altars I  
 have just devoted myself, can you, if  
 you are acquainted with my first vows,  
 reproach me for violating those which  
 I have

an



an imprudent heat has now made me take? What! Phannis, replied I, then you will not abandon your lover? I abandon her; said he, clasping me in his arms, I am resolved to do every thing for her sake. I ought to keep my first engagements. Cupid must justify me to Apollo, whom I am going to leave: yes, my ever dear Lycoris, I am free; but how can I leave this holy asylum with the cloaths I have on? how can I follow you, without being detected as a deserter from this temple? Then immediately recollecting he could find common cloaths in a magazine stored with them, he hastily left me, and returned such as I had never seen him before, I mean, one of the prettiest fellows

fellows in all Greece : I found him greatly improved. Let us fly, said he, let us fly as quick as we can, Lycoris ; we may be discovered, and then my ruin is inevitable : a frightful prison would be allotted me for the remainder of my life. We immediately abandoned the temple, and ran towards one of the harbours of the island, where we found a ship ready to set sail. I offered the pilot a sum of money for our passage, and that same night, the wind favouring us, we stood in for Megara, a famous city of Attica, where we soon arrived.

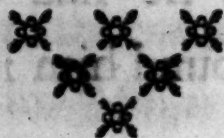
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him before, I mean, one of the prettiest  
fellows

The difficulty of being alone in the vessel, made us defer the pleasure of giving an account of our mutual adventures till our arrival at Megara. The love we imagined we felt for each other, was our topic of discourse during the voyage. A word, nay, a cast of the eye, gave us to understand a thousand charming things. At last we arrived, and as soon as we were settled, my lover yielded to the curiosity I expressed of being informed, by what train of adventures he had embraced the profession I found him in at Leucadia.

I am no longer called Phannis, said he to me; my cruel mother gave  
me



me that name, when she brought me up like a girl, at Lemnos, and I kept it as long as I appeared one of your sex ; but at present it is changed to that of Philogunis. I will pass over to the relation of my adventures, and be assured I will relate every thing with the utmost sincerity, which you will perceive to my shame, since a part of my history will cover me with blushes.



**T H E**



THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
PHILOGUNIS.

**Y**OU are well apprised, Lycoris, that one of the guests, when we were with the governor of Naxos, made some proposals of love to me after supper. I took it into my head to divert myself at the expence of this original. I answered his impertinence pretty well; our conversation was enlivened, till he became even impudent; I escaped from him by running into an adjoining room, where I immediately

diately fell into a hearty fit of laughter. He pursued me, and the good humour he perceived I was in, by my fits of merriment, still increased his folly, and temerity. From thence he proceeded to a fresh attack, which I repulsed with great briskness; then changing my tone of voice, I well remembered to have assumed an air of decency, and modesty, which struck him. However, the poison had operated too powerfully in his heart. He renewed the attack like one resolved to conquer, nay, I believe he took all the gods to witness of the violence he was going to offer me. He affrighted me, and I repented

ted having carried the joke so far ; I endeavoured to regain the room, where I left you with the insipid governor. He opposed my passage, and forced me to the door of a room, which led to the street. Scarce had my feet touched it, than he forcibly laid hold on me, and carried me a little way off ; where he met with some sailors, whom he trusted with his prey. Go, said he, to these wretches, carry this young creature to my ship ; I shall be soon after you : let them prepare to sail in a quarter of an hour. Thus I found myself in the hands of a couple of villains, who gagged me, and at their arrival immediately confined me



me below deck, that my cries might not be heard. The captain soon came; we fet sail, and I perceived by the motions of the ship, that I was separated from you, by this cruel man. It would be in vain to endeavour to describe the excess of grief I labour'd under, vainly I sigh'd and groan'd; the wind favoured his crimes, and I was obliged to despair of ever seeing you at Naxos again.

When my ravisher found we were pretty far from land, he made me come up into his cabin. Had not my grief been as great as it really was, I should have undoubtedly laughed  
to



to have seen him fall at my feet, like an abject slave ; and in this posture, pour out a heap of nonsense, to which I made no other answer, than by the strongest invectives. Wretch ! cried I, you have vowed my death ? therefore anticipate my own rage, by striking this dagger to my heart. Infamous ravisher ! are not you ashamed of perpetrating an unnecessary crime ? your cruelty has just separated two hearts joined by the tenderest love. I loved, inhuman wretch, and was again beloved. Cannot you discover a lover by his rage ? I perceived he was surprised and confused at this discourse. What ; said he, under that garment

garment is hid? ——— A lover, cried I, you have reduced to the brink of despair. By his embarrassed looks, I perceived he still doubted the veracity of my declaration. Blinded by his desires, he stared at me, considered me from head to foot, and lastly, being willing to clear his doubts, he resolved to discover the truth by a more serious examination. He saw, and his conviction made him burst into a fit of laughter, which redoubled my indignation. I perceive, said he with a sneer, that I have been mistaken ; but you ought not to blame me so much for a fault of which you was the chief instrument, by this disguise,  
under

under which it is impossible to know you. However, comfort yourself, my dear, I promise to send you back to Naxos, and will put you on board the first vessel that steers that way. But I beg you would lay aside that masquerade dress, which may again expose you to some unlucky accident; I should have some cloaths by me; which perhaps may fit you; make no hesitation, but put them on.

His promise of sending me back to Naxos by the first opportunity, calmed my impetuosity; and I gratefully accepted the offer he generously made. I was soon habited much in

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the



the same manner I am at present, and was rejoiced to see myself in the dress of a sex I was destined never to have known, if the sacrifice had been performed, to which we were the devoted victims.

The pilot was acquainted with the captain's design of sending me back to Naxos by the first opportunity; and gave a cheer to acquaint us, he perceived a gally, with thirty benches of oars, which failed towards that island. We made signals, as soon as we were near enough to be seen. My ravisher intimated his design, and I left him loaded with the presents he forced upon



on me, as a proof of his repentance, which had been so detrimental to my peace. I arrived at Naxos, full of the hopes of finding you there; but what could equal my grief, when I heard you had escaped from the governor's house the day before, and that gaining the sea shore, you had, in all likelihood, thrown yourself into the waves, since you had not been afterwards seen; and that no ship had sailed since the departure of that which had carried me off.

This fatal account was related to me as a stranger, who is immediately made acquainted with the news of

the country in which he arrives ; so that I dissembled the share I had in it. Yet I could not conceive your love for me, had been the cause of your putting an end to your life, and I was in hopes, that by searching the whole island, I should find you concealed in some remote corner of it. Vain hope ! I searched every where, but could not find you ; so that I then began to think an excess of grief had induced you to seek death in the midst of the waves. Wholly taken up with this idea, I had an inclination to follow your example : I ran to the brink of this cruel element, and, shall I tell it, my dear Lycoris ? my pusillanimity exceeded

exceeded my love. I could not persuade myself to end my life so soon ; I even dared to second my weakness with a respect for the decrees for Jupiter ; which all mortals ought patiently to expect, and not anticipate. What is there that we cannot justify with so powerful a support ? I did not love you the less for it ; the desire of preserving life is the first, and most natural impulse. This I knew before I loved you, and respected it when I had lost you.

I made no long continuance at Naxos ; I scarched for you in all the Cyclades, without any certain view ;



and the image of your death pursued me every where. No pleasure could allure me ; I was always pensive and melancholy ; and I should have been consumed with grief, had I not endeavoured, at last, to dispel it, by searching for new adventures.

You see, Lycoris, I use no dissimulation with you. On my arrival at Delphos, I observed a young person, who eyed me attentively. I felt some secret pleasure, and her curiosity gave me to understand, it was in my power to please her. The inclinations which vanity inspires, are not always consistent, nor made with reflection,



flection, and we too easily give way to  
 them. I own, I proposed to myself  
 some amusement from this adventure.  
 I succeeded, but not sufficiently to  
 make me happy. My remorse made  
 me dearly pay for the slight infidelity  
 I had been guilty of with regard to  
 you. The little creature, whom I  
 had, by my assiduity, brought to such  
 a pass, as to make her give herself up  
 intirely to me, was wild, flighty, and  
 of a roving disposition. She had no  
 sooner got a taste of pleasure, than  
 she sought it every-where. Most of  
 the Delian youth were soon my rivals;  
 and she would have daily increased  
 the number of her lovers, for the

augmentation of her pleasures, if the necessity of establishing her fortune had not induced her to prefer the addresses of one of the richest citizens of the place.

I could not be a witness of her prostitution, without greatly reproaching myself for having kindled in her young heart those sparks of fire, by which she suffered herself to be consumed. This was a new sorrow to me, which, added to that of having betrayed you, replunged me in my former grief. I often walked towards the fountain of Inope: It was there I shed tears of contrition for the levity with which I had broke the

VOWS

vows I made to love you, and only you. How changeable is the heart of man ! how little it agrees with his principles, even with himself ! The moment I was reproaching myself for my infidelity, it begun to renew. I cannot conceive, how any faith can be given to those men, who prize themselves so much on these heroic sentiments of matchless resolution, and invariable constancy. I have many reasons to be persuaded, that an invincible weakness often drags us beyond the bounds of our own will.

Philogunis was continuing his narrative, when he was interrupted by



the arrival of several travellers, who indiscreetly joined us, and put us to a great deal of trouble to get rid of them. We were obliged to give attention to the tedious relation of their voyages; to all the foolish adventures that happened to them; to their shipwrecks, and the devil knows what. Philogunis and I had affairs enough of our own to communicate; so that what concerned others, must be very disagreeable to us, however we were at last freed, and Philogunis continued to satisfy the desire I had to know the rest of his history.

THE END OF THE FIRST PART.

The



## The HISTORY of PHILOGUNIS continued

**W**AS there any probability of increasing my faults, when I was so disgusted at my intrigue with the young Delian, and had resolved, ever after, to think on you alone? Yet a woman, who seemed to seek solitude as much as myself, and whose sighs I had frequently heard, touched me at first sight. I thought her unhappy, and the uneasiness I felt at seeing her weep, almost dried up my own tears. I had no other view, when I first contracted an acquaintance with her, than to give her some consolation; and I believe, Lycoris, I became her lover; I at least ventured

ventured to address her in that stile. Her tears were shed for an ungrateful man ; and I wanted to replace him in the fair one's heart. At first, my proposal shocked her ; but she heard it a second time with less disgust, and at length we were on such a footing, as rendered us even necessary to each other. Our first enjoyments consisted in familiar conversations, wherein she would sometimes give me a description of her handsome royer, and I, in return, gave her yours. Tears would drop from her fair eyes, which made me sensibly feel her misfortunes. How powerful is a weeping beauty ! I made her confess, that her grief too much honoured

honoured the man who caused it; that such an ingrate was not worthy of those precious tears; and that the only remedy she could take, was the pleasure of an agreeable revenge. I perceived, my dear Lycoris, I had gained my point, by the pains she took to convince me, when I related to her our first amours, that your death had dissolved my chains; nay, that your very shade would be angry, if I gave up all the enjoyments of life, to preserve a heart which then was of no use to it. My victory, however, was not so easily obtained, as I imagined at first it would be: it is true, Zerbine, (for that was the name of my



my conquest,) permitted me to make love to her; she even owned she took some pleasure in it: but imperiously ordered me to expect no other return than that acknowledgment. A man, in such a case, may easily mistake love for vanity; he always attributes his constancy to the first passion. Nevertheless I must confess, that I think it was more self-love, and pride, that made me so anxious about gaining my point with her, than real affection. This is not mentioned with any design of excusing myself to you; I am inexcusable. I only make this confession for the sake of truth. Piqued at her security in her own strength,

I



I openly played upon her those springs, which are capable of inflaming a young heart. She defended, and I attacked; twenty times the happy moment was in fight, and twenty times it immediately disappeared again. Zerbine had a tender heart; but her mind was filled with all that haughtiness, and those little flights, from whence the unhappiness of a lover proceeds. I surmounted all difficulties, and, what will for ever surprise me, she yielded just at a time, when she seemed the least disposed for it, and by a caprice, the very reverse of those I daily experienced; in a word, my happiness arose from the very midst of tempests, and

never was a capitulation made with so ill a grace. Zerbine was of so capricious a temper, as to reproach me for that very tendernefs, which my transports extorted from her. You may hereby perceive, that I much resembled fuch a husband, who is fortunate to have a wife that hates him. Notwithstanding my inexperience, I suspected that all these wimfies could not hold out against fresh careffes; and I had the fatisfaction to find my conjectures were right. Zerbine was fiezed with a fudden phrenzy, and became a moft poffionate lover. I was no longer that audacious, impudent, and unworthy fellow, who difhonour-  
ed

ed her : I was an inchanter, a divinity ; these were her terms. The most perfect harmony, the most reciprocal transports, and the truest gratitude, form the summary of my adventures with her, and I enjoyed as much felicity as I could wish.

This is the second fault I am guilty of in regard to you. Ah ! my dear Lycoris, how happy shall I be, to have it in my power to redress them ! But let us return to Zerbine.

Some are born to be miserable, and my capricious beauty was undoubtedly one of those. She was doomed to  
meet



meet with ungrateful people. I know  
 not whether my infidelity made her  
 mingle any more tears with the waters  
 of Inope ; I was not a witness of  
 them : the love of pleasure absolutely  
 ingrossed my whole attention ; I scarce  
 bestow'd a moment's thought on you  
 the whole day. I became deceitful  
 and wanton : nothing could be so  
 easily conquered as the fair sex of  
 Delos. A favour often cost me no  
 more than a look, or sigh ; the merest  
 trifle. I had only to be on my own  
 guard ; I was successful in every thing.  
 I have frequently been the dupe even  
 of an involuntary glance ; I say, dupe ;  
 one is not born to such a share of  
 good



good fortune. I supported the fatigues of a man of fashion as much as possible, on account of the pleasures it procured me. I was universally known, and received repeated invitations before I visited several of the best houses. My taste for singing served as a pretext to those ladies, who still assumed the appearance of modesty ; but I went to a thousand places, where that was ridiculed ; nay, they were so plain as to declare publickly, they sought my company for qualities more essential. The rivals of all lovers, and the dread of all husbands, I daily received visits both from the one, and the other, to make me promise I would never disturb  
their

their tranquility. Can you believe I could be weary of this life? Nevertheless I was so harrassed, fatigued, and tired, that I endeavoured to gain the hatred of a sex, by whom I was idolized; the most remarkable proof of my disregard was the reward they received for their favours. I daily disclaimed against the caprices, foibles, and vanity of that sex. This expedient, which I thought excellent for my repose, had scarce any effect; I was obliged to suffer myself to be adored against my will. I cannot give you a more just idea of my follies; and of those shewn by the women of Delos.

The

The employment of a pretty fellow, which I well knew how to keep up, was soon followed by a thousand agreeable young sparks; the men had the folly to imitate my very looks, actions, and manner of walking, nay, my discourses, every thing was exactly copied; and I set the fashion for all the extravagancies of Delos. Oh! Lycoris, what a transition your image made in my heart! One day as I was enjoying the sweets of a refreshing sleep, your shade appeared before me in a furious manner; notwithstanding the change, which indignation and anger cause in a lovely face, I knew those charming features, whereby I  
 had



had been first captivated. You reproached me with every thing; my infidelity, and my fopperies.

What could I answer to such just remonstrances? My tears witnessed the repentance of my soul, you seemed moved; I endeavoured to fling myself in your arms: the shade disappeared, and I awoke with my eyes still bathed in tears, which the violent impression of my dream had in reality made me shed. Waking assuaged not my tears; the shade I had seen brought back to my mind the cruel idea of your death. Your recent reproaches rendered me even odious to myself.

To



To this miserable condition was I reduced during the remainder of my residence at Delos; where I only waited for the departure of some ship. None could account for the reason of my metamorphosis, which seemed wonderful: one day I was vain, bold, presumptuous, and extravagant; the other, cool, quiet, silent, and grave. The women only attributed this to the effect of some real attachment, which every one flattered themselves they had inspired. At last, I departed, without the least regret at leaving the theatre, where my first follies had been exhibited. In the course of our voyage, I observed we coasted near  
the

the island that gave us birth. I immediately felt for this country some secret impulses of curiosity I was not capable of resisting. As I was then habited, I no longer feared either the anger of the cruel goddess, or the resentment of my mother-in-law; therefore I made them land me at Lemnos.

I at first intended to remain incog. and I departed without discovering who I was. My base mother-in-law was dead, and had owned before she expired, that the desire of saving a daughter she had by my father, from the fatal necessity of losing her life  
for

for the great goddess, was the reason of her bringing up this daughter like a man, and in exchange rearing up as a girl a male child my father had by his first marriage. I was, as you may perceive, the victim of this fine scheme, which the gods disapproved, by snatching me, together with you, from the horrors of death. My father, and this disguised sister, perished the day of our flight in the sudden eruptions of fire. I likewise learned, that your father, Tyrteus, died soon after our supposed death; for it was imagined that we, like many others, had been swallowed up by the earthquake.

G

Satisfied



Satisfied with all the informations, given as to one unknown, I became a prey to the anguish of mind which never left me, but continually followed me where-ever I was. I again put to sea, without troubling myself where I was to land. We had sailed very prosperously for four or five days, when a terrible storm almost made us give over the hopes of ever seeing land again. The tattered sails, the demolished yards, and the broken masts, were the first essays of the fury of the winds, which seemed to be loosed against us. Soon the sky was covered with a dreadful gloom, and the mariners, fatigued and terrified, abandoned



abandoned their work. Sometimes the furious billows conveyed us to those horrid clouds, from whence the tempest proceeded; and at others again plunged us to the bottom of the deep. We were all employed in offering up prayers to the gods for their assistance. Alas! the appearance of death was not half so tremendous to me as to the rest. I am going, said I, to be united to Lycoris; we shall have the same grave. However, a calm succeeded this terrible storm: We knew not where we were drove; but we began to have some hopes, as we again saw the decline of the day: then every one was employed in repairing the

bad condition of our vessel ; but the heavens were soon clouded with a fresh darkness ; and we were obliged to wait sun-rising to ascertain the place we were in. The promontory of Leucadia was the favourable harbour, near which we found ourselves by break of day, and entered it, with the utmost alacrity, to refit the vessel, which was quite necessary to be done.

Not long after my arrival at this island, I was an eye-witness to the dreadful dangers which unhappy lovers run, in attempting to eradicate their too fatal passions from their hearts ;

hearts; the effect, as I was told, was  
 always certain; you must have been  
 made acquainted with this, as well as  
 me. Even Jupiter himself comes some-  
 times and seats himself on this pro-  
 montory, to banish the small returns of  
 tendernefs he felt from his august  
 spouse. At first, I was tempted to  
 take the dangerous leap, to recover  
 my liberty. I surveyed the place;  
 but this examination intirely disgusted  
 me. I chose rather to consecrate  
 myself to the service of Apollo, whose  
 temple was adjacent the precipice.  
 A sudden zeal induced me to make  
 this choice; and after the necessary  
 trials, the high-priest looked upon me



as a very proper person to fill that employment which was then vacant. You found me employed in this office, and I had that day pronounced those vows your presence made me forget. This, Lycoris, is my story. I never forgot you, but it was my having intirely lost the hopes of seeing you again, that made me give too great a loose to the enjoyment of pleasures; for which I now reproach myself, as they were not participated with you.

**The end of the history of PHILOGUNIS.**

**This**



This frank confession made by Philogunis, would not suffer me to deceive him; I therefore acquainted him with the many encounters I sustained in the temple of Venus, against my natural inclination, for pleasure, and my fondness for him; I even owned that the last passion was not always the strongest. Philogunis seemed moved; men have always appeared to me unjust in their opinion, that every thing is allowed, or at least excusable in them; but the wretches never found in their hearts to pardon the least weakness in us. After the recital of my adventures, Phylogunis would have con-

cealed the uneasiness it gave him. He feigned transports, of which his heart was incapable ; I perceived it, and was piqued in my turn. How precarious is fate ! it separated us, made us both prove faithless, still nourishing our love ; at last joins us again only to cause a reciprocal aversion. Those warm and tender sentiments, with which we seemed animated, were succeeded by the coolest indifference. Philogunis appeared to me entirely a fop ; and he looked on me as a coquette, whom he ought to abandon. These are the farewells he made me, in a letter which I found one day on my toilette. “ Lycoris, if my history  
 “ had induced you to make the same  
 “ reflections

“ reflections which I made when  
“ you told me yours, you must  
“ necessary think as I do, that no-  
“ thing was more precarious than  
“ our imaginary passion. Let us no  
“ longer be deceived ; we are both  
“ free ; and pleasure is our only guide.  
“ Adieu, gallant priestess of Corinth.  
“ May you be ever happy.

“ PHILOGUNIS.”

This billet fired me with indigna-  
tion. Yes, traitor, said I to myself,  
I shall be free ; even this very  
moment I feel I am so. Pleasure  
shall be now the sole mistress of my  
heart ; let her henceforward be the  
sovereign guide of all my passions.

G 5

Oh



Oh mother of all pleasure ! I devote myself entirely to you.

The Greeks, abandoned to all their desires, have invented gods to favour their passions. Venus, Cupid, Bacchus, Terpsichore, &c. have temples every where. Oh ingenious piety ! which even sanctified luxury and excess of pleasure.

It is principally at Megara, the rival city of Athens, that pleasure has raised her most favourite altars. In this agreeable abode, every citizen, philosophically voluptuous, thinks and acts for pleasure alone, and honours



honours Venus under the title she most loves ; she is there known only under the name of Venus Praxis \*. The worship paid her in that temple, is worthy this august goddess ; n other offerings or incense, but pleasure itself. Partly acquainted with the customs and manners of the country, where I was deserted by Philogunis, I was resolved to make some stay, to increase the natural bent I had for voluptuousness, at Corinth. Megara was the most proper place to strengthen my propensity for the state.

This surname, which comes from the Greek *πραττειν*, *facere*, needs no explanation, says the Abbé G——, in his *Pacicencas*.

state I was going to embrace; and I soon became one of the most celebrated courtezans in the whole country. My taste for music, at first obtained me some of the most brilliant acquaintances, whom I endeavoured to make useful to my profit and pleasure. The famous Lais never saw more admirers; my house was never empty. It was frequented by philosophers, judges, magistrates, warriors and citizens; every one had a right to my person; for they all had the same end, and the love of pleasure made every one equal to me. In this beginning of my prostitution, I made no distinction between figure, rank, or

or quality. I considered nothing else in those, who solicited my favours, than creatures formed to excite in me those enchanting transports, and that divine sensation, with which I could never be sufficiently satisfied.

I passed some years in this manner at Megara, where I was the idol of a people, who were wise enough not to look upon those weaknesses, which form our happiness, as crimes. I often went to the temple of the goddess of Gnidos, and always distinguished myself by the multiplicity of my sacrifices. It was honouring Venus to imitate, as much as it lies in the power of mortals,

mortals, the noble ardour with which that divine goddess abandons herself to pleasure. All my rivals at Megara had publicly bestowed on me the honour of most resembling that divinity. It is true, that being always as sensible of pleasure as I was indefatigable in communicating it, I never felt that disgust, that sudden distaste, which the most voluptuous are sometimes subject to even before debilitude.

A feast, at the celebration of which I was present, was the only thing that made me leave it. Corruption had taken such deep root at Megara, that the most atrocious VICES were adored.



adored. They had appointed public games in honour of **DIOCLES**, whose obscenities had made nature blush. A prize was allotted to the man, who could give the most sensible proofs of the charms and perfection of this passion. \*

I wanted to make some citizens who surrounded me, sensible of all the indignation I felt on account of these games. They coolly answered me, that all opinions were free ; that, with

\* However incredible this fact may appear, our historian has really told truth, since we read these very words in *Atheneas*, p. 448. *Diocles puerorum amatorem summis honoribus affecerunt Megarenses, eque ludos decreverunt, in quibus de osculis formosi contendunt.*

with regard to amusement and pleasure, all were relative, and that, in conscience, I could not condemn a particular taste, only because it did not hit mine. This ridiculous apology made me bite my lips, and I swore I would no longer remain with a people, who carried folly to so great an excess as to idolize VICE. I was not so ignorant to think, that I should not find some followers of this detestable VICE in every part of Greece; but I could not believe, there was any other city that had made a point to honour it. I left Megara, to reside in the center of arts and sciences, where women of my profession were most distinguished.

Athens

Athens was no longer that happy republic, which commanded all Greece. It attained the summit of glory during the life of Themistocles ; but afterwards it underwent many revolutions, yet notwithstanding its fall, it was still the asylum of all pleasures ; the honour and reputation which valour and virtue formerly acquired, now became the patrimony of all those, who contributed to the amusements of the inhabitants. An author, rather witty than solid, a courtezan, a dancer, a singer, were now the fashionable heroes. True, there still remained statues erected in honour of Aristides and Miltiades,  
of

of Sophocles, and Aristophanes; whereby the actions of the former were recorded, and the works of the latter admired; but this barren tradition was productive of no fruit; the love of true glory can never bud where pleasure reigns.

I did not entertain this opinion of Athens at my first arrival there; I was a slave to my passions, which made me give the name of wisdom to the declension of that state; for I thought the study and practice of pleasures the only objects worthy a reasonable people. Perhaps it was only my interest made me capable of so gross a mistake.



mistake. What can a woman, devoted to the service of Venus, desire more, than to see all the inhabitants of a place justify her follies, and value her excesses ! As soon as I was a little known, I saw the most opulent citizens contending with one another for the merit of gratifying my pleasures. I satisfied their desires with the view of satisfying my own. As yet I had given no proofs of my skill in music ; but I had a favourable opportunity of displaying it publicly. A questor had an inclination to give an entertainment to his mistress ; and, for this intent, had invited all the musicians of the place : I was the only person excepted,

excepted, because I had not declared my talents; yet I had the boldness to make my appearance, and gained the general applause of all the audience. From that hour my merit grew more conspicuous; music was one of the follies predominant among the Athenians, and I saw myself in a situation of making the most brilliant appearance. With no other merit than the charms of my person, I could only pretend to please these proud republicans; but I soon acquired the power of commanding them by my musical qualifications.

Among

Among the musicians I saw at the questor's entertainment, the first that struck my eyes was Philogunis; but I felt no emotion. He was a stranger to my heart; for my first passion was entirely erased: I was pleased at my heroical resolution, and cast my eyes on him only twice the whole time. The particular attention that was paid me in this concert, on account of my music, certainly rekindled the regard of this fickle lover for me, and I received a visit from him the next day.

The magnificence of his dress sufficiently indicated to me he was  
happy

happy in point of fortune. No Athenian dressed with so much taste and elegance; he accosted me *en cavalier*, “ I am come said he, to  
 “ pay my most sincere compliments  
 “ on the pleasure I had to see you  
 “ at Athens. I heard you play  
 “ yesterday on your polycord : Indeed  
 “ nothing is more delightful, I am  
 “ enchanted; and you will soon  
 “ acquire a great reputation. You  
 “ have cultivated your talents; they  
 “ will be of great help to you here;  
 “ but don’t be too profuse. It is an  
 “ advice I am glad to have it in my  
 “ power to give you; you must keep  
 “ the connoissance in wind; I make  
 use



“ use of this precaution, and with  
 “ success. I don’t satisfy the curiosity  
 “ of people till I have made them  
 “ sensible of the obligation.”

I coolly thanked Philogunis for his  
 advice, which made him burst out  
 into a fit of laughter. Indeed, Lycoris,  
 said he, “ you don’t think what you  
 “ are about ; you are in the wrong to  
 “ mistrust the visit I make you. I  
 “ have no design to make any bad  
 “ use of our former acquaintance.  
 “ Fie then, I heard you yesterday,  
 “ and am come to pay you a com-  
 “ pliment. This is the only motive  
 “ brought me here. I know the  
 custom ;

“ custom ; my conduct has entirely  
 “ deprived me of the title of lover ;  
 “ nor can I take any advantage for  
 “ having once possessed it”. I an-  
 swered, “ By Hercules, you take  
 “ the affair as you ought ; for I scarce  
 “ remember to have ever loved you,  
 “ and it would be hard to make me  
 “ recollect it :” “ I’ll not undertake  
 “ it (replied he) concerning love ; I  
 “ know the strength of the word too  
 “ well. We are both in the wrong,  
 “ to be chattering about an old story.  
 “ I swear I would not have opened  
 “ my mouth about it, had not that  
 “ serious, cool look you put on  
 “ obliged me to it. You ought  
 “ only to look upon me as a per-  
 son

“ son possessed of the same talents  
 “ with regard to any thing else, the  
 “ utmost indifferency is best. I know  
 “ how to do myself justice. To this  
 I returned “ I likewise know how to  
 “ value your merit. I had already  
 “ settled with myself how to behave  
 “ in this affair; therefore let every  
 “ thing be over between us.” “ Not-  
 “ withstanding, said Philogunis, if I  
 “ felt some small returns of love for  
 “ you.” “ It would be entirely use-  
 “ less,” interrupted I, “ Well, ad-  
 “ ded he, this is another unnecessary  
 “ precaution. This love I am speak-  
 “ ing of may not perhaps return; but  
 “ if it should, you would run no  
 “ danger; you might behave to me

H

“ just

“ just as you please. Besides, I should  
“ never have that imprudence to  
“ demand returns. I know how to  
“ behave, and will learn the custom  
“ of the house, so as to present  
“ myself, just as another would, with  
“ all the necessary care, to avoid a  
“ refusal. You understand me ;  
“ therefore, I think with these sen-  
“ timents I can no longer appear  
“ suspicious to you. Adieu divine  
“ Lycoris,” said he to me, as he  
was going, gently chucking me under  
my chin, “ Adieu ! learn to bear with  
“ people ; you will sometimes be  
“ exposed to see me, I therefore give  
“ you timely notice of it.

Such



Such a conversation as this between two former lovers, appeared so singular to me, that I have strongly retained the memory of it. Philogunis gave himself the real character he bore at Athens, and such as he formerly had been at Delos. A courtesan, who knew him intimately well, and with whom I had contracted as sincere a friendship as can possibly exist between two pretty women, gave me a further account of him. He is known, said Danae to me, throughout the whole town, for one of its compleatest cox-combs: several disagreeable adventures should have diminished that air of significancy, which makes him think

every woman incapable of resisting him; but he is incorrigible. Notwithstanding the violence of some peoples resentments, he is neither less stupid or flighty than before. Would you believe (said she) that he has carried his impudence even to such a pitch, as to imagine himself capable of filling the most important places in the state? He has even dared to solicit them, and was vastly astonished to find himself refused. It is true, that though by his being a little more skilled in music, he sings with a better grace, and more feelingly than any other, yet, is this sufficient to make him think he is worthy the smiles of those, who are at the helm  
of

of the state? Is it not enough to enjoy more than an affluent fortune, and daily to partake of the pleasures of the most illustrious Athenians?

I gave Danae to understand, that I thought as she did, with regard to the impudent pretensions of Philogunis; and I then changed the conversation to a more agreeable topick. Athens was her native place, and consequently she was the more capable of giving me good advice how I ought to behave; I therefore unbosomed myself to her on that important point; and this is pretty near the advice she gave me; I love

H 3

you,

you, Lycoris, said she to me, and am charmed you put it in my power to give you my advice about your behaviour in this city. I will deal ingenuously with you, and for your own sake. Your appearance in this city seemed to me rather too bold, too peremptory. I don't look upon your taste for pleasure as a crime; but I would have this taste not so general, nor so publick. There is, even among us here, a certain customary decency, not so well adapted to satisfy the excess of our desires, as necessary for every woman, who would not be ranked on the lower class; in a word, you must be settled; you must belong to some person; I will marry you. At the mention of  
 this



this word I gave a shriek, which made Danae laugh. You don't understand me, said she ; I am not speaking to you of that indissoluble knot, which men have invented as the support of society. Venus guard me from ever advising any once to so terrible a slavery ! No, Lycoris ; the marriage \* I propose to you, is no bar to your liberty, nor invented to stifle in us the least sparks of sensibility. Leave it to me to make a proper choice for you, and be persuaded the issue will be attended with no bad consequences.

H 4 But,

\* They gave this awful name to an intimacy which subsisted between an Athenian and a courtesan. A person, said they, has been married to day with Miss —,

But, from this moment, promise me to dismiss from your house your crowd of useless lovers, whom you must sacrifice to ambition and honour. This is the only way of gaining you that regard, and public respect, which is the greatest bliss of those in our situation. Leave to the Propetides † the indelicacy of prostituting themselves to every man ; remember that their madness is a chastizement for their impiety. Moved with Danae's way of arguing, I promised to agree to every thing she requested ; and even that very day endeavoured to  
discard

† Girls whom Venus had forced to prostitute themselves, because they were unwilling to acknowledge her divinity.

discard that crowd of debauchees, who perpetually fluttered about me. With a little haughtiness and resolution I gained my point. Only one remained! one alas! who proved dear to me, on account of his unalterable tenderness, and whom I unluckily kept, to supply the place of that husband, whom my friend had promised to procure me.

Entirely taken up with the choice she intended to make for me, she was prevented from making any farther enquiries by a very rich magistrate, who declared to her the impresson my person and accomplishments had made upon him. Danae promised

him success, received the proposals, and acquainted me with the day appointed for our nuptials ; I was not to see him till then. At Athens there is a fixed and invariable method of proceeding in such engagements ; I paid a tacit obedience to every thing ; at last came the awful day, which was to unite me to the generous unknown.

The horses of the sun had scarce run half their career, ere Danae came for me, in a magnificent car, made purposely for the ceremony ; the two slaves which had been likewise sent me, had ornamented me like a victim  
ready



ready for the altar. Luxury and every other thing that the strength of human imagination could invent to set off our charms, and flatter our pride, were made use of for my dress. My future husband had taken care to give me a specimen of his riches and generosity, by these first favours. At last I mounted the gilded car, which waited for me; and six Iberian racers carried me quickly at some distance from Athens.

A palace, equally magnificent and commodious, was the temple where I was expected. We had scarce entered the gates, when a large company

pany of men and women appeared ready to receive us. I gave my husband my hand, tho' not yet acquainted with him. My wandering eyes endeavoured to single him out ; he perceived my uneasiness. Well, can't you find me out ? said he, as we entered the salloon ; I am, Lycoris, that happy mortal, whose tenderness is to fix your heart. At this declaration, like a cunning woman, I modestly cast down my eyes, and I uttered two or three unintelligible words, to intimate the tender emotions of a growing love. The dupe swallowed the bait, and tenderly pressed my hands with his lips. I seemed melted  
at

at this transport, and encourâged him, by my non-resistance to attempt every thing he could wish; my lips received his first careffes.

All the company applauded the many proofs of tendernefs, with which I was loaded by the magistrate, and every one came and paid me a thousand compliments, on account of my dignity as a kept lady. The ceremony then began. A Crown of roses, and jessamine was placed on my head; and the gallant magistrate ornamented his with a wreath of myrtle and pinks. Then advancing towards me, with a droll kind of gravity, he placed a precious

precious stone on one of my fingers,  
and one of the guests began to sing a  
hymn, in honour of pleasure. This  
was instead of an epithalamium. The  
impression it made on me, engraved  
it in my mind for ever, and I think it  
would be unjust to deprive the readers  
of it.

### AN ODE to PLEASURE.

Thou, whom we on earth adore,  
Whom celestials worship too,  
Pleasure, shed thy influence o'er  
Us, who happiness pursue.

Love



Love invokes thee, fly to love,  
He's impatient of delay ;  
Let thy flame, his flame improve :  
What is love, when thou'rt away ?

Love's a passion, oft our bane,  
Perfect bliss proceeds from thee,  
If we ere accept his chain,  
'Tis thy favourites to be.

Blest, and doubly blest the swain,  
Who still offering at thy shrine,  
Dying once, would die again :  
Happy he, as pow'rs divine !

Each

( 160 )

Each of us, a faithful slave,  
Breathes and acts alone for you,  
Rapt'rous moment, all we crave !  
Raptures pay our service true.

Happy lovers, pleasure hears,  
Lo, she seizes on the heart,  
In the swimming eyes appears ;  
Swift pervading ev'ry part

While in raptures thus you lie,  
Gods may envy from above,  
Thus that you so often die ;  
Die repeated deaths in love.

After

After this hymn, the last stanza of which was sung in chorus by all the assembly, we were conducted to a neighbouring room; where my new spouse and myself were left together. The most exquisite perfumes embalmed the air, and the apartment was ornamented with several masterpieces of sculpture and painting. In one place appeared Juno on mount Ida, receiving the caresses of her almighty husband; in another place might be seen Jupiter, in the midst of a golden cloud, throwing himself into the arms of Danae. Every thing inspired pleasure, and voluptuously prompted the imagination. Useless incentives

incentives for such souls as mine ; but too necessary for those men, whose passions are only to be actuated and excited by strange objects !

Naucrates, for so the magistrate was named, after having suffered me to satisfy my curiosity, made me sensible that he was eat up by desires. I could not justly excuse myself from satisfying him ; he threw me therefore on a pile of cushions which were behind me, and used the expressions of the most passionate lover. His eyes sparkled with the most lively ardour, and I thought, by the impetuosity of his first attacks, that I should find in him



him a man like the Sicilian, who enjoyed me in the temple of Corinth. Vain hope! Naucrates, extended in my arms, only felt desires he enjoyed himself. By what means could he prove them? he blushed, and could scarce look at me. I cast down my eyes, confused and abashed for him. Ah! Lycoris, said he, what a situation is this for a lover? I feel all its darts; it is you doubtless that are to cure me. I pretended to be ignorant of the point he endeavoured to bring my complaisance to; he therefore explained himself more intelligibly. I still made no answer. At last, he made the thing so plain, that I was obliged

obliged to try at the prodigy for which he made me hope.

You see, said he, immediately afterwards, you see, Lycoris, that my happiness depended on you. Cupid is resolved I shall be indebted for my bliss to those I love. Then, proud at his triumph, he is resolved to enjoy it; but the spirit, which animated him disappeared, and vanished, like those light meteors, which just shine, and leave no trace behind them. The obstinate Naucrates will not as yet own his defeat. Again new entreaties from him, and fresh efforts from me; but less successful than the former, I  
could

could not enliven his coldness of disposition. However, my own imagination was heated, and I felt that I was consumed by an inward flame. Naucrates perceived it, which increased his dissatisfaction; he wished to satisfy both his desires and mine; but in vain, and his manner of returning me thanks for my past endeavours, made me imagine, that he had thrown up the cards. Far from being as insensible as himself, he was soon convinced of the sensibility with which I was capable of enjoying pleasure. Doubtless he envied me that gift of nature, which he was incapable of partaking himself. On our return

to

to the company, we were obliged to bear the several witticisms, which must have mortified Naucrates, if he had not been accustomed to such affairs; but I perceived, he bore the jests that were thrown at us with an equal countenance. As for me, like a thorough courtesan, I acted the part of the most happy mistress, loaded Naucrates, before his friends, with those tender caresses, the common attendants of the most lively pleasures. This increased the vanity of my lover; and if there was no woman present, intimately enough acquainted with him to know his ability, I paid him all the honour that was due to him.

Supper-



Supper-time approaching, every one prepared to bathe. Naucrates had every conveniency in his house, that could possibly be invented for this purpose; every one had his particular apartment, which, by means of a bronze pipe, furnished the finest waters in the world. A slave was appointed to serve me, who threw into a vessel of Parian marble the essence of jessamin, and pinks, whose odours were tempered with a quantity of fresh spring-water, and formed the most voluptuous bath imaginable. Whilst I was enjoying myself in it, the slave acquainted me, what sort of people formed the company that  
was

was then in the house. " As for the  
 " men, said she, they fill the greatest  
 " and most distinguished places in  
 " Athens ; they are rich voluptuaries,  
 " who trouble their heads more about  
 " their amusements, than the im-  
 " portant affairs with which they are  
 " intrusted ; yet they are generally  
 " greatly respected, it being a common  
 " custom in these days, and in every  
 " country, to prefer pleasure to every  
 " thing. It would formerly have  
 " been very ill placed, and have  
 " seemed despicable ; but now even  
 " the irregularity of their behaviour  
 " is become indifferent ; thy don't  
 " take the least notice of it. With re-  
 " gard

“ gard to the women, continued she,  
“ I believe some are your acquaint-  
“ ance; Danae, for example, seems  
“ one of your friends. Well, being  
“ acquainted with one, is knowing  
“ them all; the same rank in life,  
“ the same behaviour, the same  
“ humours; with this only difference,  
“ who have had the most intrigues.  
“ Danae, Lamia, and Thais, have  
“ each of them one of these voluptu-  
“ aries, who defray their expences,  
“ and support their pleasures. Of  
“ the three others, two are now  
“ free, the other has always been so.  
“ They have each of them amassed  
“ considerable fortunes, by different  
“ I “ methods;

“ methods; the first, named Theonis,  
“ is the most celebrated dancer we  
“ have. Notwithstanding the drolness  
“ of her figure, and her odd shape,  
“ she has raised, by her talents, the  
“ tenderest passions among the  
“ greatest nobles of the place. At  
“ present, rich with the spoils of  
“ those lovers, who have now for-  
“ saken her, she lives at Athens with,  
“ all the pomp that springs from  
“ superfluity. Surely Naucrates must  
“ be a very great friend to her, since  
“ she has condescended to be of this  
“ party. Theonis no more makes a  
“ trade of herself; she only performs  
“ at home. Celenis is the second ;  
“ the



“ the sprightliness of her genius has  
“ made up for the want of natural  
“ graces, and acquired parts. Our  
“ poets have never been able to  
“ employ her, otherwise than in the  
“ chorus. Alternatively forming  
“ the happiness of the publick and of  
“ the private lover, who is the highest  
“ bidder, she has found out the way  
“ of raising her name among the  
“ most celebrated courtezans. It is  
“ even said, that, in a journey she  
“ formerly took, she received an  
“ honour capable of raising the envy  
“ of all her rivals. Three powerful  
“ kings, who accidentally met,  
“ admitted her to their table, to enjoy

“ the pleasure of her conversation.  
“ It is true that Celenis, together with  
“ that lively and just taste, knows  
“ how to give the least trifles that  
“ witty and gallant turn, which so  
“ much delights the men; and she  
“ will certainly give you a specimen  
“ of her abilities before she leaves you.  
“ Besides, she is one of the most  
“ good-natured creatures existing.  
“ Little capable, at present, of raising  
“ those tender sensations, she has  
“ generously made it her whole  
“ study to oblige others. Most  
“ intrigues of consequence pass thro’  
“ her hands; she is the register-office  
“ for all the cast-off mistresses, and  
“ the

“ the young noblemen, who just  
 “ came into the world.”

“ The other, whose name you  
 “ you have heard was Denaide, never  
 “ had other than transitory lovers.  
 “ Too sincere to feign an attachment,  
 “ she has found out the method, by  
 “ her very independance, of raising a  
 “ fortune, as opulent as even that of  
 “ Theonis. No girl ever knew her  
 “ trade better than she, or behaved  
 “ more reasonable. The prince, the  
 “ the magistrate, the questor, the  
 “ citizen, nay, the very tradesmen,  
 “ all are taxed in proportion to their  
 “ wealth. Well acquainted with

“ the art of calculation, she with a  
 “ glance perceived, that this agreeable  
 “ proportion would prove as useful  
 “ as the troublesome slavery of those  
 “ women, who are subjected to the  
 “ capricious taste, and ill humours of  
 “ an illustrious lover. To this let  
 “ it be remembered, that she always  
 “ thought her pleasures of some  
 “ weight; and was thoroughly per-  
 “ suaded the method she had taken  
 “ was the only one capable of sa-  
 “ tisfying the extent of her voluptuous  
 “ desires. It is true, the multiplicity  
 “ and notoriety of her excesses have  
 “ not gained her that esteem, which  
 “ Theonis and the others have  
 “ acquired;



“ acquired ; but what can yield such  
 “ consolation as riches, and plea-  
 “ sure ? ”

I returned to the room, satisfied with those important reasons. The company were already assembled; every one put on a crown of flowers, according to custom; and we seated ourselves at table. The repast did honour to the taste and opulence of its master; the most scarce and delicious dishes, the most exquisite and richest wines, were to be had in abundance. Celenis, by her smart repartees, enlivened our mirth; so that we passed best part of the night, at table, without ever taking notice of it.

Heated with wine, and the joy which it inspired, we began to talk a little idly; and gradually grew still more free. The house echoed again with the many kisses given and returned. Jealousy, that fiend of pleasure, lost its power in floods of spilt wine. Every thing was growing common, and I don't know to what length this preliminary would have carried us, had not one of the Athenians proposed a thing too extravagant, not to be accepted by every one. "Pleasure (said he, addressing himself to his voluptuous friends) seems to be our only guide; yet it ought to have its limits. Lycoris belongs to

“ to Naucrates, Lamia to Ctesiphon,  
“ Thais, you know, belongs to me.  
“ This right, I think, ought to be  
“ considered as respectable. We  
“ ought not coolly to see the object of  
“ our tenderness reclining in the  
“ arms of another ; let us then swear,  
“ not to push our excesses to so  
“ great a height, as mutually to  
“ insult one another ; Chrises, Poly-  
“ crates, and Thelenus ought take  
“ the same oath. I am not ridiculously  
“ jealous, and what I am going to  
“ propose, will sufficiently justify  
“ me ; but every one must swear to  
“ make use of nothing but his mouth,  
“ and eyes : upon this condition I  
I 5 “ give

“ give up my delicacy. Even Nau-  
“ crates and Ctesiphon will agree to  
“ this.” Every one having taken  
the oath, Cymegirus himself swore;  
and thus continued his discourse.  
“ Lycoris, Lamia, Thais, Denaide,  
“ Theonis, and Celenis, must undoubt-  
“ edly appear to us very agreeable as  
“ at present; but each moment has  
“ its peculiar pleasures; night brings  
“ with it the most lively of all. Every  
“ one must therefore be unincum-  
“ bered with their useless ornaments,  
“ and discover to us their most hidden  
“ charms. A treple crown is destined  
“ to the fair, who is judged the most  
“ worthy to wear it.” “ By Jupiter,  
“ cried Celenis, I agree to it with all  
“ my



“ my heart ; I am not vain enough  
 “ to imagine I shall gain the prize ;  
 “ but I am pleased at the oddity of  
 “ the thought.” Immediately and  
 complaisantly she gave an example,  
 which was instantly followed, when  
 we appeared before our judges as at  
 our birth, and such as Venus formerly  
 appeared to the shepherds of mount  
 Ida. Theonis a little exceeded her  
 former behaviour ; but the wine had  
 even more effect on her, than upon  
 the Athenians. She forgot that such  
 things as those were only done by  
 the young devotees of Cytheres ; and  
 that it was also exposing the irregula-  
 rity of her shape. Indeed I never saw  
 any

any one so deformed; and doubtless she would have been overlooked, had she not made use of her particular talent, and by the precision and lightness of the most lascivious dances, dissipated that disgust it was natural she would cause. After this indecent prelude, it was to be decided who deserved the crown. Their eyes at first wandered, as uncertain where to fix, either on Lamia, Danae, or myself. Lamia soon gave over all hopes of ever obtaining it, and Danae was along while the only one who disputed the prize with me; they remarked one, and criticised the other. In short, the prize was unanimously allotted

allotted to me. I spare my reader the very natural discourses, that preceded this awful judgment; I cannot even myself recall them without blushing: but nothing was more diverting, than to see these gallant judges, animated by this indecency, and overheated with wine, yet restrained by their oaths, look on such alluring objects with eager and inflamed eyes. Just as one sees a satyr, stopped by a river, devour the charms of a young nymph bathing on the opposite side. We had no thoughts of returning to Athens, till the lover of Cephalus began to tinge the heavenly canopy with her rosy fingers. Naucrates  
returned

returned with me, in the car which had brought me there, and conducted me to a new house, already prepared for my reception. My weariness would not at that time suffer me to pay any regard to the beauty of my apartments. I gave Naucrates a hint, that I wanted to take some repose; he also wanted it, and, without any more ceremony, we shared the bed between us. What chiefly surprised me was, that, on this occasion, he made use of no boasts, but immediately fell asleep, which was the only pleasure he was capable of at that time.

He



He was not quite so modest when he awoke. He thought he could not genteely leave me, without first proving to me, that what happened the day before, was owing to some misfortune. He was entirely taken up with this important project, when I began to open my eyes. I narrowly examined him, without suffering him to perceive he had interrupted my rest. Doubtless his scheme was very dear to him, for the many difficulties that intervened put him in a passion, which greatly diverted me. The more resistance he found, the more obstinate were his endeavours. At last came on the happy moment, which

which was to decide a victory, too dear, not to be laid hold on immediately. He instantly awaked me, or at least thought he did so; but I scarce had him in my arms ere he sighed, groaned, and died. Nau-crates, though he had lost no time, had still awakened me too late.

More ashamed than pleased with this momentary pleasure, he took his leave of me, after having promised always to give me notice when he intended to visit me; for my part, I was not very uneasy at this second misfortune, as I expected it. My whole thoughts were employed in  
calling

calling to my assistance the indefatigable Athenian, which my unlucky precaution had destined to supply all faults. I sent to him by my chief slave, whose good will I soon gained; I clasped him in my arms that very night. What a night! ye gods! what happiness did I not enjoy! Naucrates was rich, and generous. Demophilus was formed for love, and tenderness. The former could only satisfy my vanity and pride; this was enough to keep him. The latter possessed my whole heart, could I then part with him?

Demophilus

Demophilus had a very middling fortune at Athens ; but the favours I received from Naucrates, gave me an opportunity of being of great service to him. Happy should I have been, could I have concealed this agreeable intrigue ! The magistrate, however, one day surpris'd us in a too indecent posture to admit of an excuse. At this sight he flew in the greatest rage imaginable ; a sword unluckily fell in his way ; he lays hold of it, and, flying at his rival, sheathed it in his breast. Demophilus, with wandering eyes, and death painted on his quivering lips, makes the best use of the few moments he has to live, and staggering,



staggering, throws himself in my  
 arms. Alas ! how could it be ex-  
 pected, I should have sufficient  
 strength to support him ! I sunk  
 upon the ground, loading Naucra-  
 tes with curses. Accomplish, bar-  
 barian, cried I, thy crime, by making  
 me the second victim of your rage.  
 Perhaps he might have obeyed me,  
 had not several of my slaves, whom  
 my cries had brought to my assistance,  
 forced him to a precipitate flight.  
 Demophilus, however, still breathed;  
 I endeavoured, by stopping his blood,  
 to restore him to life. Vain endea-  
 vours ! I was warming him in my  
 arms, and pressing my mouth to his,  
 when

when he breathed his last. How can I express my grief, when I had given over all hopes of ever seeing him again ! Fain would I have killed myself ; but they had prevented my taking any such rash methods ; and I was only to expect death from an excess of grief.

As soon as it was dark, several armed ruffians rushed forcibly into my apartment, and carried away the corpse of my lover that lay before me. They had received their orders from Naucrates, who flattered himself, that, by this act, he should elude the enquiry that might be made. Alas ! he succeeded too well. Notwithstanding

standing all my complaints, the law was then so much perverted, as to pay too great a respect for criminals of his quality ; and I received from all quarters private orders to be silent, on pain of being shamefully banished Athens. O Themis ! why have you placed your sword in the hands of those, who only turn its edge against the friendless and miserable ?

This unhappy catastrophe for a time extinguished those desires, that taste for pleasure, which had formerly captivated my heart. I left the house of Naucrates the day after he had perpetrated

perpetrated his crime ; and the way I afterwards got my livelihood, was by teaching the young Athenian ladies to play upon the harp. Happy situation ! delightful tranquility ! how could I ever think of losing you ? how came I ever to forget Demophilus ?

Levity and inconstancy have, to me, always appeared inseparable from the human mind. Ever fickle in its taste and pleasures, and even more so concerning what it looks upon as its duties, it is always prescribing new rules, and forming new plans. In my firsts gust of grief, I  
had



had proposed to weep for Demophilus the rest of my life. Indeed, I ought to have done so ; but alas ! I blush at it, I soon forgot him. The young Athenian, whom I taught to play upon the Lyre, had a brother, who was always with her when I gave her lessons. I took notice, that this youth, at most between fourteen or fifteen years old, had always his eyes fixed on me, and that he often sigh'd ; as also that he vainly, through bashfulness, endeavoured to suppress those sighs, which the sight of me forced from him, notwithstanding his care. My first examination, in reality, arose from curiosity ; but the more

I began to think he really loved me, the more this mere curiosity began to disappear ; and I was greatly rejoiced at the power my charms had on this young man. He had the air, the features and graces of the god of love. What a triumph for a woman ! Thus you may find, that vanity had already taken possession of my heart, and as soon as this vice has taken place, it attracts all others. I forgot Demophilus, and felt a revival of that flame with which Venus makes all her votaries burn. From that moment, I began to wish it was in my power to make the love of Ligdames

(for that was the young Athenian's name) turn to my advantage.

As I was walking one day under a row of palm-trees, which spread a refreshing shade, on the banks of the river Ilissus, I saw Ligdamēs seriously employed in carving some letters on the tender bark of a young tree. I approached him, without being perceived, when I had the pleasure of discovering, that I was the subject of his pensiveness, and that it was my name he had just done carving. The pleasure this gave, occasioned me to make a noise, sufficient for him to turn his head my way. He saw me,

K

and

and immediately the instrument dropped from his hand. He looked towards the ground, then turning to the tree, he fain would prevent me from discovering what I had already seen. “ What, said I, was your  
 “ business here alone ? you seem all  
 “ in a flutter ; does my presence  
 “ make you uneasy ? perhaps I am  
 “ too indiscreet. What !” continued I, picking up the instrument, which he had let fall on the grass ; “ you are  
 “ engraving something ? you are  
 “ silent ; you turn aside your eyes.  
 “ Take courage, Ligdames, there is  
 “ surely some latent mystery ; make  
 “ me your confident, perhaps I may  
 “ be



" be of use to you ; give me leave ;  
 " at least, to see what you was em-  
 " ployed about." " About nothing." said he, trying to get me from the tree. " No, replied I ; I am abso-  
 " lutely resolved to see what you  
 " have done upon the bark." " Pray,  
 " don't see it," cried he. " You  
 " astonish me, said I ; what harm  
 " will that do ? you increase my  
 " curiosity, and I am resolved to sa-  
 " tisfy it." Ligdames would have  
 made some resistance ; but could not  
 hinder me from reading the same  
 words a second time, which he want-  
 ed to hide from me. Oh heavens !  
 what do I see ! said I to him, feign-

ing to be extremely surprized. It is my name you was engraving! what am I to think Ligdames? what! was I the subject of your meditation? Still more confused than at first, the young Athenian fell prostrate at my feet, which he bathed with his tears; without uttering a single word. I was obliged, by a thousand questions, to extort from this unexperienced youth a confession of his love for me. I made him promise to come the next day, at an appointed time, to my house, and then gave him leave to return home, charmed with the mildness with which I had received his declaration.

The

The reflections which this happy adventure forced me to make, kept me for some time in the same place where I surprized Ligdames. He loves me, cried I ; I can no longer doubt it; and what a lover, oh Venus! does thy goodness bestow on me! Though young, he for the first time feels that agreeable sensation, that divine uneasiness, called love. I shall be the first who enjoys his heart; how dear to me will this make him! All those different passions, which by turns share the hearts of man, are intirely unknown to him; he will only know how to love. Thus, taken up by such flattering ideas, I en-

deavoured to pass the time till Ligdames came to me. Lovers are always punctual, because pleasure is their aim. My lover did not suffer himself to be expected; he had not as yet seen me alone; he had long wished for this felicity. How happy am I, said he; at his entrance? Oh charming Lycoris, you permit me to see you, and hear you, what can I wish for more? Indeed he only thought on this happiness, at least his behaviour to me made me think so. For my part, I had more extensive views; it was not sufficient for me to see Ligdames, I was resolved to embolden him, or rather to make his heart sensible of those pleasures,

which



which were to crown his love. But the greatest trouble I was put to, was how to make myself understood, without lessening that delicacy I had affected. I wished at least he might prove capable of understanding half what I expected ; he was, however, too ignorant ; his penetration was of no use to me, “ what is the matter  
 “ with you, Ligdames ? said I, you  
 “ love me ; I likewise love you ; you see  
 “ me, and speak to me, you are  
 “ seated by me, and yet you seem to  
 “ wish for something else.” He very ingenuously answered, “ Indeed you  
 “ are quite unjust, nothing can make  
 “ me more compleatly happy. Ah,

“ Lycoris ! the pleasure of seeing  
 “ and hearing you, —— cannot suf-  
 “ ficiently satisfy all your desires,  
 “ interrupted I ; I am not quite ig-  
 “ norant ; your animated looks in-  
 “ form me too well of your designs. It  
 “ is true, I cannot blame you for it ;  
 “ I received you alone, and no one  
 “ present. Unkind creature, you are  
 “ resolved to make an ill use of my  
 “ kindness.” “ Oh heavens ! (replied  
 “ Ligdames) what designs do you  
 “ mean ? I make an ill use of your  
 “ kindness ! what opinion can you  
 “ have of me ? do you think I am  
 “ ungrateful, a monster.” — “ You  
 “ are a lover, said I, and what is  
 “ still

“ still more, a beloved one. I foresee  
“ all the dangers I run when with  
“ you ; I am sensible of the  
“ weightiness of your reasons for  
“ justifying your rashness. Yes, I  
“ know that the transports of true  
“ love can never offend, that they  
“ are just, and that it is cruel to  
“ endeavour to suppress them ; but  
“ what proof can I have of your  
“ discretion and constancy ? how can  
“ I be certain, that you will always  
“ deserve the weakness I may be  
“ guilty of for your sake ?”

Ligdames astonished, and not understanding what I meant, fixed his

eyes on the ground, without daring to look at me. I was thoroughly piqued at his stupidity, so that, not knowing how to behave, I laid hold on his hand, which I pressed. He did the same by mine; he endeavoured to embrace me, as if through instinct. I gave way to his desires; he could then no longer contain himself; his eyes sparkled, and he endeavoured to throw himself in my arms. I resisted; he became more resolute; I escaped, he followed and stopped me. Oh heavens! cried I, what would you be about Ligdames? I know not, (replied he, with a voice interrupted by sighs) I can't understand the meaning



meaning of this sudden change ; but  
 I am no longer satisfied with only  
 looking at you, and hearing you. O  
 nature ! O love ! how expressive is  
 your language ? Instantaneously the  
 clouds disappeared that obscured the  
 mind of Ligdames in the knowledge  
 of pleasure ; the very desire brings  
 us by large strides towards perfection.  
 My young lover knew quickly as  
 much as myself. The apartment we  
 were in resounded with nothing but  
 sighs and groans, and those voluptuous  
 proofs, which spring from an excess  
 of sensibility. I even thought that I  
 again enjoyed the same flow of plea-  
 sure my heart first knew in the forest  
 of

of Lemnos. I felt that enchanting delirium, which is always far superior to the idea of pleasure ; I had, if I may so express it, received a new soul. Happy disgust ! which had made me worthy the tenderness of Ligdames.

This young Athenian had doubtless fixed my choice, had not the tenderness of his heart made him bestow on other objects that very love which formed my happiness. He at first deceived my watchfulness ; but he soon made me suspect his inconstancy, by the marks he gave me of his love, Ligdames insensibly grew cooler. In  
vain

vain I reproached him ; he soon gave me too convincing proofs of his perfidy ; he did not even pay me the common visits ; and was never with his sister at her lessons. How could I dissemble my shame, and his inconstancy ? The grief I felt for the loss of him, proved not so great as I at first expected. I quickly perceived, that Ligdames had no share in my heart, and had only awaked in me the love of pleasure, from that state of drowsiness in which it had been immersed by the cruelty of Naucrates. I was rejoiced, and immediately began to think of throwing aside the voluntary solitude to which I had at first foolishly condemned

condemned myself. What necessity was there, that, being innocent of the crime which had been committed, I should suffer for it? In this manner, my own reason seemed to convince me of the necessity of returning to my former schemes. That light, which the gods have bestowed on us as a guide, too often serves to lead our passions and vices astray, and when almost extinct, chance discovers us the true road; it only shines in those obscure paths, where we have been drawn by our own weakness.

The new care I took of my person,  
and making my appearance every  
where



where again, soon brought me back  
 that crowd of smarts I so much loved ;  
 but what gave the decesive blow, was  
 taking my place among the courtezans,  
 who were assembled, according to  
 custom, to celebrate the feast of  
 Adonis.\* I renewed my acquaintance  
 with Danae and Lamia, who wished  
 me joy in the generous resolution I  
 had taken of restoring my charms  
 to

\* This feast was commonly celebrated at  
 midsummer, in most parts of Greece ; it even  
 passed into India, and it is of this feast the  
 prophet Ezekiel spake, when he said “ he saw  
 “ women weep for Adonis.” The courtezans  
 walked through the streets in grand mourning  
 pomp, having on their heads silver baskets filled  
 with flowers, and singing sorrowful hymns on  
 the death of this lover of Venus. Vide *the*  
*Idilles of Theocritus.*

to the republic. Immediately some marriages were proposed to me in the suburbs of Athens ; but I would accept none of them. That with Naucrates had been attended with too bad consequences for my ever engaging in a second ; I would have nothing to do, but with those transitory lovers, who were themselves jealous of their liberty. I enjoyed the sweets of this agreeable life, when I perceived I was likely to become a mother. I was vastly rejoiced, and returned thanks to the divine Paphian queen, for having brought with her the Gnaides when Ligdames blest me with his careffes (for it was to him I owed that

that happiness which so much rejoiced me.) Few courtezans could pride themselves upon having this advantage; and therefore my vanity became the greater. I was the first who declared the honourable situation I found myself in. The respect it drew me, made all my rivals wish, that, like me, they could give subjects to the republic. I neglected not, during my pregnancy, to offer incessant vows to my good protectrix. I only avoided those excesses that might prove hurtful to me, and I was brought to-bed of a most lovely daughter, who ought to have been my joy and comfort.

The

The first emotions of nature made every other care subside to that which concerned my growing progeny; I thought of nothing, but this pleasure. My daughter, whom I called Zennie, engrossed all my thoughts; she was my exact resemblance, and I think I may say she was lovely. The gods have likewise made her a present of as tender a heart as mine; this is either one of the sweetest, or bitterest gifts, they could have conferred on her. It is not enough to be tender, we must be happy. The fondness I had conceived for Zennie increased daily; every thing declared those perfections which were to distinguish her;



her; but I could not attach myself so much to this lovely child, without sometimes thinking on the perfidious Ligdames. I did every thing in my power to get him to my house: I wanted at least to have the comfort of shewing him the proofs of our love, but the barbarian was deaf to my entreaties. The debaucheries, in which he was plunged, would not give his heart time to feel the calls of nature. Zennie was always an object of indifferency to him; yet he was her true father; I am sure I knew only him when I was pregnant of her. Why then had not Zennie some power over the heart of this man?

man? What become of those ties of blood, that are principally acknowledged throughout the whole world? My reason is lost in this enquiry. Gods! what then is the law written in our hearts! Two motives induced me to return to my old profession; first, because it was my natural bent; and, secondly, to acquire a fortune, which might put it in my power to give my daughter a good education. Nothing could counterbalance these reasons, and I accepted the first lover who made me proposals. As he was of a different character from any I had been connected with, and besides, as I had reason to be satisfied with him,

him, I shall give a full account of him.

One night being tranquil at home, diverting myself with my harp, and playing some tunes which seemed to have some effect upon Zennie ; I perceived a man enter, respectable for his dress and situation in life. I soon knew him to be the high-priest of Minerva's temple ; and I was going to fall prostrate at his feet, when seating himself by me, the holy man began the following discourse. " My  
 " presence seems to astonish you,  
 " without doubt, Oh sweet Lycoris !  
 " A man like me appears destined for  
 " divine

“ divine things. It is true, Minerva  
 “ speaks by my mouth ; I am the  
 “ minister of her will ; but such  
 “ weighty occupations do not stifle  
 “ the desires of my heart. Wonder  
 “ of our days ! I have seen you, and  
 “ I then felt nature. I lifted my  
 “ eyes to heaven ; but they fell down  
 “ again towards the earth ; they  
 “ sought for you, and since that time,  
 “ my soul has been ever full of that  
 “ inexpressible affection I have felt  
 “ for you. All Athens, thoroughly  
 “ persuaded of my sanctity, thinks  
 “ me intirely free from the darts of  
 “ love : let them still have that  
 “ opinion ; I agree to it, for it is even  
 necessary



“ necessary to its edification : but  
“ ought I to be the sufferer ? you are  
“ to be my judge, you, whose eyes” —  
“ True, answered I, this language  
“ from you astonishes me, you,  
“ who are adored and respected  
“ throughout all Greece, you the  
“ minister of our altars, how can you  
“ breathe in so impure an air ? I  
“ cannot say otherwise than that I  
“ know myself ; what shall I not  
“ suffer from the anger of the gods,  
“ if, preferring the company of a  
“ courtezan, you bestow on me those  
“ precious moments, which alone  
“ belong to them ?” “ What do  
“ you say ? (replied the high-priest)  
“ what !

“ what ! can that Lycoris, as famous  
 “ for her sense as for her beauty, can  
 “ she speak to me in so popular a  
 “ stile ? Does the dignity I am honour-  
 “ ed with, prevent me from being  
 “ a man, like others ? What character  
 “ is there sufficiently holy to deprive  
 “ me of my eyes and heart ? Leave to  
 “ the blind vulgar the error of only  
 “ looking upon me as the oracle of  
 “ their gods ; I am no more than  
 “ a man to reasonable people. I shall  
 “ leave you to your thoughts ; and  
 “ to-morrow, at the same time, shall  
 “ come and expect my doom, which  
 “ will either make me happy or  
 “ miserable.” He then got up, and  
 looking

looking upon me with eyes full of love, departed, leaving me very much astonished at this odd adventure. I reflected how I should behave, when the appearance of something struck my sight, which fixed my wavering resolutions. This was a purse with three thousand drachms\*, which the high-priest had left where he had been seated. This treasure was accompanied with a billet, which I eagerly read, and found as follows :

L

“ My

A piece of Greek money, worth about three pence half penny of our coin. This sum, tho' not very considerable among us, was immense among the Athenians, whose highest price bestowed on the favours of a courtezen, was never more than 1000 drachms. Vide *Atheneus*.

“ My heart is in a perturbation  
 “ and flutter. It is only your smiles  
 “ can calm this storm to a state of  
 “ blissful peace. Above all, soul of  
 “ my desires, think that, by being  
 “ with me, you will not be less  
 “ your own mistress. My love is  
 “ lively; but not of a jealous kind.  
 “ I am satisfied to share a place in  
 “ your affections; but I think my-  
 “ self unworthy to engross them  
 “ all. Judge not of my acknow-  
 “ ledgements by this first trifle; I  
 “ may be of great use to you in all  
 “ your pleasure.” The reading of  
 this gallant epistle gave the finishing  
 stroke; and I decided in favour of  
 the



the high-priest. I could not find a lover, who could accommodate himself so a-propos to my way of living; and I impatiently waited his return. The next day, scarce had night fell, ere I saw him enter my apartment; but differently dressed from the day before. Well, said he, what have you resolved? have my proceedings proved unsuccessful? No longer kill me by the cruel objection which you made me yesterday; have you any more scruples? Both my reason and gratitude ought to have cleared them, answered I. Mention nothing but your reason, replied he, that is alone sufficient to strengthen you against

the prejudice which at first alarmed you. You may perceive, I have put off those pretended holy garments, which distinguish me from the rest of the Athenians. In this manner, I shall always appear when with you. I have put aside those banns, which tie me to the altar, and the only thing I shall bring you, is a heart truly and sincerely your's. You have acted prudently (said I to him) to leave those outwards ornaments of your dignity; they might betray you in your visits to me. You agree then to see me (replied the high-priest) only comfort of my life! Oh heavens! how happy shall I be! you will crown  
 my

my love ! Then, without giving me time to answer him, he embraced me ; and eagerly possessed himself of the happiness he so much desired. With what courage the holy man satisfied his own desires, and mine ! I soon found out, that his character had not deprived him of any of his faculties. One transport was followed by another. Even more sensible of pleasure than myself, he enjoy'd those delicious extacies, which Venus only bestows on her elected. He added the strength of Hercules to the tenderness of Adonis. In a word, he was a wonder in every thing that concerned this divine passion. I adored him : the

most beloved object never was repaid with so much gratitude as himself.

Nothing could equal my happiness in having inspired the interpreter of Minerva with love. I enjoyed this blessing several years, and his generosity procured me all the conveniences of life. Our intrigue was never discovered, which gave him an opportunity of still imposing on the ignorant. I every where heard him praised as an example of piety; superior to all terrestrial seductions, and who only lived on herbs and water. What pleasure did I not enjoy, by thus being taught how easily men  
are



are to be deceived ? Vain would have proved every endeavour to have aspersed his character ; a blind credulity would have expelled all doubts. The populace are delighted with such errors ; they have their particular objects of esteem and veneration, as likewise of hatred and contempt ; reason, and justice seldom chuse either the one or the other. They are the mere effects of caprice and chance. I seldom made an ill use of the liberty my generous lover allowed me. I scarce proved unfaithful to him above twenty times in ten years ; yet I was often at those nocturnal meetings,

where the illustrious Athenians assembled with girls of our profession ; but I obstinately refused all the proposals that were generally made me. Philogunis was frequently of our party, and could not guess the reason of my behaviour. Every one endeavoured to assign a cause ; but they were obliged to believe, what I a thousand times alledged, that I no more relished those pleasures I formerly delighted in. However, my company was equally as much liked, on account of my gaiety, and abilities. I therefore enjoyed all the pleasures of a courtesan, without being subject to the will

will of any one. I really believe my taste for pleasure began to diminish ; the high-priest daily grew less passionate and tender ; yet I let slip several opportunities, which few women in my situation would have done.

The education of Zennie took up a great part of my time, and I was happy enough to find, she had the best disposition in the world. All the masters I bestowed on her, succeeded in making her one of the most accomplished girls. The pains I sometimes took of instructing her myself, insensibly gave my mind a

very serious turn. I daily became more philosophically inclined, and less attached to pleasure. My august lover, whose passion was as much cooled by age, as by the frequent enjoyments of it, with me approved my change; and invited me to give up that weakness, which is only pardonable in our juvenile days; but which always makes women appear ridiculous when in their decline. His gifts had placed me in too easy a situation ever to fear that want, to which courtezans are reduced, and which obliges them to continue their debaucheries, and make them appear the more infamous, by being obliged,  
 through



through necessity, to commit the greatest excesses. I was still of a very agreeable figure, and sufficiently so to make an honourable retreat. I therefore undertook it, and soon became what was then called good company.

As the mind requires some nourishment, I applied myself to literature. Athens was full of those people, who devoted themselves to it; some where its patrons; others its cultivators. Wit had devised a thousand different works, which required only a superficial smattering to be kept up,

up, and those graces, which a lively and warm imagination produces, without the help of genius, nay, and even sometimes without the help of good sense. The difficulty attending more solid knowledge had rendered these new inventions very estimable; there were some few people, who despised the public depravity of taste; but these were scarce, the greatest number were inclined to the reigning trivial taste. The very sciences and arts were infected with this poison. Flowers, animals, and fruits, were the objects of emulation among the painters. Under pretence of imitating nature in its spring, they had

forgot

forgot that bold and strong way of painting, which might be capable of rendering their works immortal. They were suffered to daub a cloth with some gay colours, which the air in a minute affected and spoilt. It was reckoned being wise, and learned, to make a thorough enquiry into the merest trifles. Grave dissertations were made on the anus of a flea, upon what coloured cloaths ought to be wore in town, or in the country, on the sweet excrements of flies, and a thousand other such idle things. He proved the best artist, who employed different kinds of metal and precious stones, to form grotesque

tesque figures, about whose propriety they disputed, whilst they intirely forgot nature in all her proportions.

I took great pleasure in considering how much the taste of men alters and fluctuates. I compared Athens in its lustre to what it was now, and was astonished to find so vast a change. Thus I diverted myself with laughing at the expence of a state, by which I had been idolized. One of my chief amusements, was to go to their magnificent theatres \*. I daily saw the decay of that art, of which

Aristophanes

\* Philon, a famous architect, built it under Pericles; it at least contained 6000 persons, and was faced with marble.



Aristophanes will ever be considered as the father. The liberty this illustrious comic poet enjoyed, was absolutely denied the modern writers. They were not allowed to make use of that boldness, that true criticism, which can alone lash public vices. Besides, those Athenians who were the judges of these works, and whose morals were entirely depraved, gave the comedies, thro' a natural blindness, that forced appearance of decency and honour, to which the authors were obliged to submit; yet it might easily be perceived, notwithstanding these few reasons alledged to excuse them, there was still wanting

ing that divine genius, that extensiveness of imagination which forms the great man.

My reformation had made people forget the follies of my youth ; I was seated at the play in the midst of persons of the first distinction, who were in no pain about it.\* The character I had assumed of a philosophical woman, had erased the very idea of what I had formerly been. My house became no longer odious, even to

\* There was a particular gallery allotted for the women, called Cereys, where no courtezans were admitted. They had a separate place built for them, by which they were prevented from mixing with those, called modest women.

to those men who valued themselves on keeping up to the strictest morals. I went with Zennie in the best assemblies of the town. Her wit and talents were much admired; but especially that modest look which made people entertain great hopes of her future conduct. Alas! it was a mere mask. When Zennie attained the age of desires, I could no longer command her. Worthy daughter of her mother, she was subject to the same passions, and had the same inclinations for pleasure; against which I could not defend myself. Could I justly blame her for following my example? I knew the weakness of my sex; the  
artifices

artifices of which men know how to make so much advantage, and principally the invincible charm of pleasure. I seemed not to perceive her natural bent. How was I repaid for it? doubtless, I was doomed to be punished for having forgot my father, the unhappy Tyrteus. My daughter one day left Athens, without taking her leave of me, and I have never heard of her since. Oh Venus! Oh love! thou art at present useless to me. Soon the gods will take me to themselves; be therefore at least favourable to the cruel Zennie, and may she enjoy as much pleasure as she gives me grief.

F I N I S.





